

Revelation 14

The key chapter we missed in understanding the End-Time

First, let's understand that the Book of Revelation comprises a series of visions given to the Apostle John, in exile on the Isle of Patmos – a series of visions that are not completely consecutive. Bullinger's 'Bible Companion' explains that they alternate throughout the book, between events that take place in Heaven and on earth, so the timing can overlap.

Revelation 14:1-5, *'Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones **who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.'***

This is the **heavenly** Mt Zion - Hebrew 12:22, *'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.'*

Here are depicted the resurrected saints before our Father's throne, standing upon the sea of glass.

Revelation 15:2, *'And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, **over his image** (as we saw previously) and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.'*

They now have their Father's name because they have married His Son, as the Bride of Christ.

What follows in this chapter is a quite separate vision, which pictures events that take place **on the earth**, culminating with the return of Christ to the battle of Armageddon at the very end of the last 7 years.

These are events which, when compared with and inserted into those in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6, completely flesh out the chronology of the last 7 years of this age, before the establishment of Christ's Kingdom here on the earth, something that the church has not generally understood.

Notice :

1. Verses 6-7 of Revelation 14, *'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— saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."* This, of course, is exactly the same message brought by Jesus Christ – the gospel of His coming Kingdom, and the need to repent. How will this message be delivered? – read our article 'Dreams and Visions' on this website. The 1st angel's message **begins the end of the age** – the final 7 years of Tribulation (Daniel 9:27, *'Then he shall confirm a covenant with many **for one week**; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. □And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.'*) There will be no mistaking this event.
2. Verse 8, *'And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* The second angel's message announces the Fall of Babylon, not many months after the first angel flies. Babylon here is not the religious system of Revelation 17, which falls much later in the 7 years, as we know, but that geographical nation described in Revelation 18 which by the projection of her commercial and military power has oppressed the nations, feeding them a culture of sexual immorality and deviant lifestyles. Britain first, and now America (Israel) have acted as Babylon.

So are Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of the leading Tribes of Israel to be brought down by God for their sins only months after the first angel's message, which will shock the whole world. (Refer to the Time Chart of the series on the End-Time on this website for the time detail.)

3. The third angel, verses 9-13, brings the warning that when the world's policeman has been brought down, people should avoid worshipping the Beast who will then lead the emergent empire, which alone will be in a position to dominate and control the Western World. This will be the leader of the EU, probably a German, working in co-operation with a great international church led by the False Prophet.
4. The 4th angel's message, verses 15-16, is for Jesus Christ, who is pictured in verse 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.'* The harvest mentioned here is the **firstfruit** harvest of those saints, which were described in verses 1-5. They are resurrected, or if they are alive, changed, in the twinkling of an eye at **the exact time of the firstfruit barley harvest in Israel**. This event is the 6th Seal described in Revelation 6, and takes place exactly 3 ½ years before Christ finally returns from heaven with His Bride at the Feast of Trumpets. Notice that on Christ's **final** return **with** His Bride at the Feast of Trumpets, it is an angel who sounds, Revelation 11:15, *'And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.'* However, at the resurrection, it is God Himself who blows the trumpet, Zechariah 9:14 *'And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south'.* I Thessalonians 4:16, *'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.'* This cannot be a Feast Day, Matthew 24:41, *'Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.'* Notice that the resurrection takes place just after the *'tribulation of those days'* and the heavenly signs, Matthew 24:29-30, the Sixth Seal of Revelation 6:12.
5. Verse 17. *'Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.'* The sixth and final angel, verse 18, explains that the iniquity of mankind is now fully ripe; that the fifth angel can cast them into the Great Tribulation of the 7th Seal which lasts for 3 ½ years and is called here the 'great winepress of the wrath of God', culminating in verse 20, at the Battle of Armageddon. *'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.'*

These are the details that God told the prophet Daniel were sealed up until the time of the end – Daniel 12:9, *'And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'*

Only now have we reached that time, and God wants us to be prepared for the earth shaking and miraculous events of the 1st Angel, because most of God's people have fallen asleep spiritually, (Matthew 25:5, *'But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.'*). They have blindly followed the traditions of men and so completely missed the full understanding and significance of the important words "firstfruit harvest".

Now is the time to change our lives – to repent, for when that angel flies, there will be little time before Israel (Manasseh and Ephraim) falls. You need to know what God requires of you then; (Read our End Time Series 1-5) in order to understand how to play your part, for this is not something the Churches of God have taught and your future will depend upon it. (This series will continue)

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