When the Angel Flies

There is a verse in Matthew 24 which many Christians have long felt they were fulfilling, but which in fact is actually impossible for man to fulfil, because however hard we try, not all the world is accessible to us for one reason or another. That scripture is Matthew 24:14, 'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'

This is a clear promise however, from the lips of Jesus Christ himself, which indicates that ALL the world *will* be reached, ALL MANKIND, wherever they are found, with the gospel of the Kingdom, and THEN and only THEN, shall the END – the end of this age, the beginning of the END TIME, arrive.

Of course, we Christians have tried our best to preach the Gospel which is what this website is about, Mark 16:15-16, 'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.' We recognise though, that in many Islamic and Communist countries such preaching is illegal and even the internet cannot reach their people with the Gospel.

How then, will ALL the world receive the Gospel, and exactly what is the Gospel anyway?

First, let's notice **wha**t message Jesus Christ brought, as He went about preaching the Gospel, Matthew 4:17, 'From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Mark 1:14-15 amplifies His words, 'Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.'

That message is the good news of the coming of the Kingdom of God at the final return of Jesus Christ, and the fact that it is near to all of us, less than a lifetime in each case, and so we need to believe the message and repent, which means turning from our evil ways and beginning to live according to God's Laws and Jesus Christ's example, John 14:15, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments,' and 1 Peter 2:21, 'For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps..'

Today, there are many who claim to be Christians who refuse to do that, claiming that God's Laws no longer apply to them, but they are without excuse. John 15:10, 'If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.'

1 John 3:4, 'Everyone who commits sin also breaks the law; sin is the breaking of law.'

Matthew 5:17-18, 'Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.'

As the last page of the Bible reveals, only those who keep His Commandments will be given eternal life, Revelation 22:14, 'Blessed are they that <u>do his commandments</u>, ['Wash their robes'- repent of breaking God's Laws] that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.'

So, now that we know what the Gospel is — what it means in terms of its effects if we will obey, let us see *how* the Gospel *will* be preached into ALL the world. Revelation 14:6-7, '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, 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.'

Here, the Apostle John, exiled by the Romans onto the Isle of Patmos, was given a vision by God of what will occur on the earth WHEN that same Gospel – an eternal or everlasting Gospel, is preached to all men and women, everywhere on earth.

Then, when that occurs, all will understand that a time of judgment has come upon them. Will they though, fear God enough to begin keeping His Commandments and thereby honour Him and give Him glory? Will they repent and accept by their obedience that He is the Creator who deserves their true worship?

How will this message be delivered by the angel? Why, in exactly the same way in which John received it if course – by a vision! The Book of Joel explains that just before the Great Tribulation the heavenly signs will occur, Joel 2:30-31, 'And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.'

These are the very same heavenly signs we read of in Matthew 24:29, 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days[Not the Great Tribulation, but the first 5 Seals] shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken,' and Revelation 6:12-14, 'When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, **the full moon** became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.'

They occur immediately before Christ returns for His Bride, the Saints (Matthew 25:1-10). Interestingly, this means that the resurrection will take place on a Sunday (Wave Sheaf Day), when the Passover, (full moon) occurs on the Saturday just before the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins, which is why the Apostle Paul explains that unlike most 'Christians', God's elect will have a good understanding of the timing of these events as the day approaches, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, 'But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.'

Somewhat prior (3 ½ years) to those heavenly signs will the first angel of Revelation 14 fly, delivering to 'all flesh' – all who are alive on earth at that time, dreams or visions of what will then shortly come to pass – the 'great and terrible Day of the Lord' and the need to repent in order to be spared the horrors which will be depicted in those visions of the Great tribulation, in which God will punish mankind for the rejection of His Laws and His way of life, Joel 2:28-29, 'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.'

Our God is merciful, and never fails to clearly warn before he pours out punishment upon sinning mankind, in order to give us opportunity to repent. In this case we can be sure that the message will

be vividly spelt out in those dreams or visions, but despite this graphic revelation, most who are 'Christians' will rejoice about the good news, and wave their arms in praise that 'Jesus Saves', but fail to carry out the second part of the message, that we need to repent, just as did most of the Jews who heard Jesus Christ bring the same message so long ago.

The tragic result will be the loss of life on an almost unimaginable scale, as the whole earth is reconstructed. Matthew 24:22, 'And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.'

Isaiah 24:6, 'Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.'

Isaiah 24:1, 'Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.'

Today, you have received advance warning of these events, not dealt with or expounded by the churches of this world, because *they* look to the prophetic scenarios of men, rather than directly to the words of the Lord, but, Amos 3:7, 'For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets', who direct people to His word.

For us then, if we are truly Christians, *now* is the time that we must repent, but the whole world will receive *their* opportunity when the first angel of Revelation 14 flies, and Matthew 24:14 is *actually* fulfilled, **the sign** that the end of this age has arrived. (See our End Time Timeline).

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