

## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

### Revelation 14:1 - 15:8 | Session 18 | Zion, Six Angels, The Son of Man, and Seven Golden Vials

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth.

- The First Vision, in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- The First Vision, on Earth (6:1-7:8)
- The Second Vision, in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- The Second Vision, on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- The Third Vision, in Heaven (11:15-18).
- The Third Vision, on Earth (11:19).
- The Fourth Vision, in Heaven (12:1-12)
- The Fourth Vision, on Earth (12:13-13:18)
- **The Fifth Vision, in Heaven (14:1-5)**
- **The Fifth Vision, on Earth (14:6-20)**
- **The Sixth Vision, in Heaven (15:1-8)**

### THE FIFTH VISION, IN HEAVEN (14:1-5)

#### The Lamb and the 144,000 (14:1-5)

In keeping with the pattern of John's visions, the fifth one starts in Heaven. This vision is brief and encompasses only five verses. To understand it, we remember Revelation is not written chronologically.

In verses 1-5, we have a parenthetical episode about those who will have come through the Great Tribulation and have been caught up in Heaven.

A LAMB STANDING ON MOUNT ZION WITH THE 144,000

Verse 1 —

This formula of introduction, **and I looked**, is used by John several times in Revelation. Each time, it alerts us to an important event which in this case is a **Lamb** who **stood on the Mount Sion**. **Sion** is the Greek spelling of Zion. We have identified the Lamb in other sessions as Jesus Christ.

At first glance, this vision appears to be on earth since the Lamb is standing on Mt. Zion. The meaning of Zion is not completely understood. The name Zion (Sion in Greek) is mentioned 153 times in the Bible. It may come from a Hebrew root word meaning parched or dry. It could also mean “to set up” or “to protect.” The

Prophet Isaiah refers to Zion 47 times and uses it interchangeably for all of Jerusalem, sometimes Judah, and sometimes Israel.

How can Jesus, the Lamb, stand on **Mount Sion** but be in Heaven? The answer is that there are two locations of Mount Zion: an earthly Mount Zion, and a heavenly Mount Zion. Although it is heavenly, it is not spiritual, rather it is literally in heaven. This interpretation is supported by certain passages in Scripture that speak of the Heavenly Zion.

Psalms 132:13,14 alludes to a heavenly Zion. *“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest forever: Here will I dwell; for I have desired it.”*

Hebrews 12:22 is the most descriptive and helps confirm Psalm 132, *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...”*

The apocryphal book of 2 Esdras describes a scene on Mount Zion where a great multitude of people sang hymns of praise to the Lord. Although not divinely inspired, this passage provides historical evidence of the existence of a heavenly Mount Zion.

In chapter four, we saw that the Temple and all of its elements, including the priests, are a pattern of the things in Heaven (See notes from Session 8). Likewise, Jerusalem and Mount Zion on Earth are patterned after the heavenly Mount Zion.

Since John hears a voice from heaven (vs. 2), it would appear that **A Lamb stood on the Mount Sion in Heaven**, before the throne of God (vs. 5), i.e., the heavenly Mount Zion.

And with the **Lamb a hundred forty and four thousand**. Earlier, John recorded the remarkable event of a protective seal that had been placed on 144,000 men chosen out of the tribes of Israel. At some point, these 144,000 will be caught up with Christ and will stand on Heavenly Mount Zion with Him. <sup>1</sup>

**Having his (the Lamb’s) Father’s name written in their foreheads.** We see here the contrast between those who took the mark of the beast in their foreheads (13:16) and these men who kept themselves pure. There are two reasons these 144,000 are sealed with God’s mark:

- 1)** So they could pass through the Tribulation unscathed. Not even the most vicious persecutions of the beast can inflict any harm on these sealed ones.
- 2)** So they could form the nucleus of the new nation that will be formed during the Millennium.

We are told in verse 4 that these are the **firstfruits unto God and the Lamb**, and they are a small portion compared to the entire harvest of the nation of Israel. We have already seen this massive harvest coming out of the Tribulation in Chapter 7:9-17<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>We first saw these Jewish Tribulation evangelists in Rev. 7:4

<sup>2</sup> See notes on Session 13: [https://rogerfeenstra.files.wordpress.com/2023/08/revelation-7-1\\_8-6-session-13-the-144000-and-the-second-vision-in-heaven-notes.pdf](https://rogerfeenstra.files.wordpress.com/2023/08/revelation-7-1_8-6-session-13-the-144000-and-the-second-vision-in-heaven-notes.pdf)

## VOICES FROM HEAVEN SING A NEW SONG

Verses 2,3 —

**And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and...great thunder...** John heard this before: 6:1 and 1:15.

**...the voice of harpers harping with their harps.** These are probably not angels, but other created beings for singing and playing music before God's throne. **And they sung as it were a new song,** and taught it to the 144,000 who were the only men who could learn the song. It must be some kind of celebratory song that only those who had been redeemed from the Tribulation on earth could understand.

## 144,000 MEN WHO ARE UNDEFILED

Verse 4a —

**These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.** This is a remarkable group of men. Their description forms the basis of their character and the difficulty they encountered on Earth during the Tribulation. As we saw earlier, at 9:21, the Tribulation will be marked by an increase in murders, drug use, fornication, thievery, and sexual immorality.

If we think the floodgates of hell have been opened in our day, things will get a lot worse. There will be a display of massive sexuality on steroids that will include trans sex, transgenderism, drag shows, genital mutilation, and the persecution of those who refuse to take part.

I know it is the desire of all believers to see revival, but the Scripture tells us that just the opposite is going to happen. These things will even creep into the Church as adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ fragments into apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1, etc.). That doesn't mean we should not try to persuade and reason with men and women to change hearts and minds. True revival will not come until Jesus Christ returns as The King of kings and The Lord of lords.

During the seven years of *Jacob's Trouble*, multitudes will suffer martyrdom for their refusal to take part in the debauchery.

In the Tribulation, ungodliness will run rampant.

Literally, these 144,000 men have maintained their virginity and have been redeemed from all of this. The 144,000 are blameless as to the fornication taking place during the Tribulation. They did not receive "The LIE," which all the others believed. And thus they learn a celebratory song of their redemption.

## THE 144,000 STAND FAULTLESS BEFORE GOD

Verses 4b-5 —

**These are they which follow the Lamb...redeemed from among men, the first fruits. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.** These 144,000 first fruits, those who were redeemed from the Tribulation, will likely become the foundation of the new nation of Israel during the Millennium.

We in the Body of Christ stand *faultless* before God today. We are washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11), and we stand before God holy, unblameable, unprovable, and complete (Ephesians 3:19; Colossians 2:10)

## THE FIFTH VISION ON EARTH (14:6-20)

### Six More Angels and the Son of Man

In chapter 14:6-20, John saw the appearance of six more angels. Each angel has a message or a mission concerning all who are on the earth.

In verse 6, **another angel** appears. The last time we heard from an angel was in Revelation 11:15 when the seventh angel sounded the seventh trumpet. The effects of the seventh trumpet extend until chapter 15:8, after which, in 16:1, the Seven Vials of God's wrath will be poured out on the Earth.

While the AntiChrist and False Prophet run rampant on the Earth, God sends six angels in a row with various proclamations.

#### THE FIRST ANGEL PREACHES THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

Verses 6,7 —

This "**another**" angel is preaching **the everlasting gospel**.

#### Understanding Gospels

Verse 6 mentions the everlasting GOSPEL. The word itself means *Good News* or *Glad Tidings*. There are several uses of the word Gospel throughout the New Testament.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NOW, IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD, THERE IS ONLY ONE SAVING GOSPEL.

The Gospel of grace is of your salvation, *by grace through faith and not of yourselves; it is a gift, not of works* (Ephesians 2:8,9). *No other gospel is to be preached today, and for those who do, Paul said, "Let them be accursed."* Galatians 1:8.

There are other Gospels in Scripture. The Gospel of the Kingdom, for example, was preached by John the Baptist, Jesus, and Peter. It was not a grace gospel; rather, its message was to believe Jesus is the Messiah (His death, burial, and resurrection), but it was accompanied by *repentance and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins*. The Kingdom Gospel, while not preached now<sup>3</sup>, will be preached again during the Tribulation; after the Church (the Body of Christ), has been caught up with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). The Gospel of the

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<sup>3</sup> Some still preach half the Kingdom gospel today. They say you must repent, but many of those who do stop short of saying you must be baptized.

Kingdom will be replaced by the **Everlasting Gospel** (Revelation 14:6), which is not a grace gospel as seen in verse 7.

## The Various Uses of the *Gospel* in the New Testament

Many of these uses are duplicated in other passages

Passage	Gospel
Matthew 4:23	The Gospel of the Kingdom
Mark 1:1	The Gospel of Jesus Christ
Mark 1:14	The Gospel of the Kingdom of God
Acts 8:25	The Gospel
Romans 1:1	The Gospel of God
Romans 1:9	The Gospel of His Son
Romans 1:16	The Gospel of Christ
Romans 2:16	My Gospel
Romans 10:15	The Gospel of Peace
2 Corinthians 2:12	Christ's Gospel
2 Corinthians 4:3	Our Gospel
2 Corinthians 4:4	The Glorious Gospel of Christ
2 Corinthians 11:4	Another Gospel
Galatians 1:8	Other Gospel
Galatians 2:7	The Gospel of the Uncircumcision
Galatians 2:7	The Gospel of the Circumcision
Galatians 3:8	The Gospel unto Abraham
Ephesians 1:13	The Gospel of Your Salvation
2 Thessalonians 1:8	The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Timothy 1:11	The Glorious Gospel of the Blessed Lord
Revelation 14:6	The Everlasting Gospel

It is **everlasting** in that to **fear God and give glory to him** has been preached since the beginning. Is this the Gospel message we would give to someone today? The everlasting Gospel is not a gospel that will save, but one that compels men to **worship** God.

*We can tell the everlasting gospel differs from the gospel of grace that we preach today because it speaks of judgment to come.*

Salvation by grace through faith and not of works is only offered now. It was not offered before Christ, and it will not be offered after the body of Christ is removed from the earth at the Rapture.

During our dispensation of grace, we are not under judgment, nor do we have any fear of judgment. We do not need to be warned of the judgment to come. For the believer, **there is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus** (Romans 8:1).

During the Tribulation, God's gift of grace is no longer offered. This **angel** is flying above the **earth**, proclaiming this **everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people**. In chapter 13:7, we saw the Antichrist making war with *all kindreds, and tongues, and nations* and we identified these are Jews. Here, the words **and people** are added. This angel is proclaiming the everlasting gospel to everyone on earth, not only Jews. The

proclamation to fear God and give him glory might take place before the mark of the beast becomes mandatory.

#### A SECOND ANGEL ANNOUNCES THE PENDING FALL OF BABYLON

Verse 8 —

A second **angel followed** the first. This is the first mention of **Babylon**. It's unclear what this second **angel** means by **Babylon is fallen, is fallen**. We might be tempted to take Babylon in a spiritual sense here. But we must take this as literal **Babylon** until we find a passage that tells us otherwise. Literal Babylon doesn't exist today, but will it be rebuilt and revived? I say yes. Babylon was the seat of the prevailing religion of the day where **fornication** ruled. (See Jeremiah 51:7). There will be more about Babylon in future chapters.

#### A THIRD ANGEL WARNING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF TAKING THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Verses 9-13 —

**The third angel followed** the other two, warning of the dangers of following the Antichrist; that **if any man worships the beast and his image...the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God**. This is likely a warning given before chapter 13; Worship God, don't worship the image of the beast. Those who worship the beast are going to Hell. There is no going back after **receiving the mark**. The sentence of Hell is not annihilation but eternal **torment... forever and ever**. This speaks of physical bodies capable of being tormented in physical flames.

For the Jewish **saints**, it is better to die a martyr's death (vs. 13) than to receive the mark. Those who do not receive the mark will be killed, but the promise from God is that **they may rest from their labors**. The **works that do follow them** are their works of obedience and patient endurance.

#### THE SON OF MAN AND A FOURTH ANGEL

Verse 14-16 —

The first set of three angels made their proclamations, and now another set of three follows, but first, in the middle of these six angel announcements, John saw a vision of the **Son of man**.

FIRST ANGEL; SECOND ANGEL; THIRD ANGEL - **[THE SON OF MAN]** - FOURTH ANGEL; FIFTH ANGEL; SIXTH ANGEL

The term Son of Man always connected Jesus with the Earth. In the Gospels, The Son of Man is the Sower of good seed in Matthew 13:37. He is Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:38).

Hidden from those on earth by a **cloud**. While unseen by the inhabitants, they will see the effects of the **sharp sickle in his hand** (a symbol of judgment). At His crucifixion, he wore a crown of thorns; here, **On His head**, he wears a **golden crown** (a symbol of the King who reigns).

The presence of the Son of Man no doubt shows that what we are about to see in verses 15-20 is coming judgment upon the earth. John 5:27 states that God *"Hath given him (Jesus) authority to execute judgment also because he is the Son of Man."*

The **ripe** harvest is connected with judgment in the Old Testament (See Joel 3:11-13). The word **Ripe** can also mean dried or withered. This is the judgment in which the sun and the moon shall be darkened (Joel 3:15; see Acts 2:20).

The fourth angel's brief announcement about the sharp sickle being thrust into the Earth is another sign that the Lord is judging the Earth and removing the offenders from the Kingdom. This could be connected with Matthew 24:37-42.

#### A FIFTH ANGEL WITH A SHARP SICKLE

Verse 17 —

This angel who comes **out of the Temple which is in heaven** has a **sharp sickle** and he awaits instructions.

#### A SIXTH ANGEL CALLS ON THE FIFTH ANGEL TO GATHER THE CLUSTERS OF THE VINE.

Verses 18-20 —

The theme of final judgment continues here; notice the word **trodden** in verse 20. This treading takes place **without the city**, outside of Jerusalem, where the valley of Kidron, also known as the valley of Jehoshaphat, is located.

This passage involves the campaign of Armageddon. This campaign will comprise the armies of the antichrist. The campaign will end in the valley of Jehoshaphat. There the nations that have gathered against the Jews to finally annihilate them will instead be **trodden** by the King of the Jews.

Joel 3:12-13 states:

*Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat:*

*For there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*

**13** *Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe:*

*Come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow;*

*For their wickedness is great.*

The campaign of Armageddon, the bloodshed of the Antichrist's army, is so massive that will extend for 180 miles. We will read more about Armageddon in later chapters. (See Isaiah 63:1-4).

## THE SIXTH VISION, IN HEAVEN (15:1-8)

In this Vision (the shortest chapter in the book), we are introduced to the most terrible of all the Visions that affect the earth; it is followed by the Seven Vials (or Bowls) in chapter 16. This chapter is still parenthetical.

#### THE FINAL SEVEN PLAGUES ARE ANNOUNCED

Verse 1 —

The **seven last plagues** are **filled up** with **the wrath of God**. Although we will not see them until the next chapter.

## THE OVERCOMERS AND THE CALM BEFORE THE FINAL STORM

Verse 2 —

John sees **as it were a sea of glass, smooth mingled with fire**. The calm before the storm. **Them that had gotten victory over the beast, over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name stand on the sea of glass**. Somehow, these were the *overcomers*.

## THE OVERCOMERS SING

Verses 3,4 —

They are singing two songs; **they sing the song of Moses...and...of the Lamb**. The **Song of Moses** is found in Deuteronomy 32; it is God's dealings with Israel from the beginning to the end.

The song is introduced in Deuteronomy 31:19,29,30,

*"Now, therefore, write ye this song for you, and teach it to the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel...and evil will befall you in the latter days...And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended."*

The actual song is in Deuteronomy 32.

**The song the Lamb** is recorded in Revelation 15:3,4. The point of this song is that despite the horrendous judgments about to come on the earth (chapter 16), God is holy, righteous, and true.

## SEVEN ANGELS ASSEMBLE TO RECEIVE SEVEN VIALS FULL OF GOD'S WRATH

Verses 5,6,7 —

Literally, it is the Holy of Holies in heaven that is opened. The angels will exit the presence of God to start the Seven Vial judgments on the earth.

Some Bibles translate *vials* as *bowls*. The Greek word is *philale (fee-al-ay)*. A *phial* (sounds like a **vial**) was a vessel used for holding liquids. The KJV translators transliterated the word.

These vials might be better thought of as shallow bowls. Sometimes called, The Seven Bowl Judgments.

## GOD'S POWER AND GLORY FILL THE HEAVENLY TEMPLE

Verse 8 —

The **smoke** shows the hour of God's judgment. There can be no intercession now. No worship can be offered while the smoke lasts. (See Lamentations 3:44).

The above passage is a parenthesis that fills in some detail. Next time, we will see the events unfold in their exact order.