

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #16
Revelation 14:8-13 – The Second & Third Angels
(11/15/09 PM)

(Outline Map of the Tribulation)

Chapter 14 continues the parenthetical section between the sounding of the 7th Trumpet (11:15-19) to the beginning of the Bowl Judgments in chapter 15. Two weeks ago we considered verses 1-8. We saw the prophetic vision of the 144,000 standing with Christ on Mount Zion in Jerusalem on earth. God has preserved them through the Tribulation and they stand with their triumphant Messiah. We also saw the first of three angels sent by God to fly over the entire earth. The first angel proclaimed the Gospel calling the remaining inhabitants of earth to repent and trust Jesus. This represents for most God's final opportunity for salvation.

1. The Angel Announcing the Fall of Babylon (8)

The Actual Account Is in Chapters 17 & 18

Again we see a future event that is so certain it is spoken of as already occurring. This will certainly come as a shock to the earth dwellers. Antichrist's kingdom will appear to be the answer they have been looking for. Its worldwide domination will at first seem unconquerable.

• **Babylon is a representative title**

Scholars debate whether the actual city of Babylon will be rebuilt. Dr. Hindson believes that those who look for a literal rebuilt city “overlitterilizes” Babylon. Revelation 17:9 refers to “seven mountains” also translated hills. Rome is known as the city of seven hills. Babylon is Rome. It is the rebuilt Roman Empire possibly including papal Rome. The city of Rome will likely be the capital of religious Babylon. Babylon is therefore symbolic of the religious, economic, and political kingdom of the Antichrist. What ties the kingdom of Antichrist together is occult godless worship energized by Satan.

• **Babylon is the synonymous with false religion**

Revelation 17: 5 records the title: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” The fornication is primarily spiritual fornication. Although the worship of Antichrist will most likely involve immoral practices as did the ancient Babylonian religion. In ancient times Satan appeared to make Babylon the center of false worship. Babylon is first mentioned in Genesis 10:10 as “Babel” a city built by Nimrod “in the land of Shiner”. It was there in Genesis 11 that the tower of Babel was built. When God “scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth” they took their false religion with them. Many of the false religions that swept the ancient world found their origins in Nimrod and his queen, Semiranis. Many of the pagan religions included worship of the mother and the son. The son was killed and supernaturally brought back to life. Jeremiah condemned the women of Judah who “knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods”, Jeremiah 7:18.

The Roman Catholic Church calls Mary, the queen of heaven. The Persians under Cyrus expelled this cult from Babylon. The priests fled to Pergamos. They were later brought to Rome by Julius Caesar. Rome became identified with the Babylonian

mystery religions. Many of the practices of Roman Catholicism find their origins in pagan Babylonian religion.

“The wine of the wrath” most likely refers to the persecution of true believers. Revelation 17:6 sees Babylon as a harlot “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”

The Earth Dwellers Will Spiritually Prostitute Themselves to the Cult of Antichrist Worship

2. The Angel Announcing Doom to the Beast Worshippers (9-11)

These Angels Represent God’s Final Warnings

- **To receive the mark is to be eternally damned**

“...he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.”

Jesus Christ drank that cup for all men. Only those who repent and trust Him as Savior will not drink it. In this cup God’s wrath will not be mixed with mercy or grace. These people will experience the full measure of God’s wrath. This occurred in Noah’s generation.

Genesis 6:3, “And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”

When God’s gracious offer of salvation is refused there remains only righteous judgment. “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night.” These verses clearly teach the doctrine of eternal retribution found in Scripture.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, “...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...”

This is exactly what Jesus taught. Matthew 25:41, “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Every Unrepentant Sinner Will Be Banished Forever From the Presence of God

3. The Blessing of the Saints (12-13)

The Contrast Is Striking

John seems to spontaneously give an encouragement to those who refuse the mark of the beast and receive Christ as Savior.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

- **The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints**

The word “patience” means perseverance. True believers remain faithful to Christ. John 6:37, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (40) And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will

raise him up at the last day. (44) No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

This will be tested as never before during the tribulation. In the face of the greatest satanic opposition in history all true believers will endure. All will suffer for their faith and many will be martyred. Jesus spoke of this in [Matthew 24:12-13](#), “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

True salvation is evidenced by obedience to God’s Word. All true Christians to one degree or another “[keep the commandments of God.](#)”

Their Endurance Is the Evidence of their Salvation not the Cause

- **The blessedness of martyred Christians**

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

What a difference between them and those who die marked by the Antichrist. The words “[from now on](#)” will be particularly precious to believers living at this time. The word “[blessed](#)” means fortunate, supremely blessed, blissful, serene, and contented.

[Philippians 1:21](#), “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

For the believer in any age death is the end of earthly struggle. The reason why these believers are blessed is because “[they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.](#)”

Their struggles on earth against Satan and the Antichrist are over. Their faithfulness and service to Christ will be rewarded.

Even In the Face of Violent Death Believers Have Hope