

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 5:33 PM  
Subject: Last Nites MOB Study on Revelation 14:6-13

"And he (the angel of the Lord) said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him the glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and springs of water!' (Revelation 14:7)

Remember last week's lesson on Revelation 14:1-5 when John "looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him the one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads"! Then, "a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and of loud thunder and of harpists playing, and the singing of a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders"! This was a "preview" of a great celebration which John (in a vision) "beheld" of the Second Coming of Christ to the earth! And the 144,000 standing with Him were the ones who (earlier in Revelation 7) had been saved, sealed, sanctified, and sent out into world to preach the gospel during the worst possible time of the Tribulation Period; when the world was in great distress; under the clutches of Satan, and the Antichrist, and the False Prophet, and it was next to impossible to survive without worshipping the beast, and having the mark of the beast! And yet these 144,000 apparently made it through the Great Tribulation, alive and triumphantly (sealed and protected by God), and now stood with Christ at His Second Coming! These were truly "the elect of the elect" who, John writes, "had been purchased from the earth...and not defiled by women, for they had kept themselves chaste...and followed the Lamb wherever He went...and were the "first-fruits" to God and to the Lamb...and blameless" (although not without sin)! Remember how John had earlier written (in Revelation 7, in another "behold" moment!) about how there resulted (from their witness) "a great multitude (of converts!) which no one could number, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne (many having been martyred) ...clothed in white robes...and singing praises to God (probably "looking down" at what was happening on earth)!

God is obviously "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (according to 2 Peter 3:9) and this is (or will be) no more evident than during the time of the Great Tribulation! Remember that in addition to the raising up of the 144,000 (in Revelation 11) how God revealed to John (in a vision) how He would also "grant authority" and give special power to the "two witnesses, clothed in sackcloth," to prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days (which just happens to be three and a half years of the tribulation period), and how after "finishing their testimony" they would be killed by "the beast coming out of abyss," but then miraculously raised from the dead, after their bodies had been left on the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days, for all the world to see, but then ascend into heaven in a cloud, resulting in people (from all over the world, apparently) "being terrified and giving glory to the God of heaven"! All this during the "terrible" tribulation!

And this sets the scene for our lesson last night on Revelation 14:6-13, where John reverts (back again!) to recording more of God's dealing with man, with His final message of hope and grace to the people of the world, during the closing days of tribulation!

Revelation 14:6 says that "then John saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His

judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of water!"

And what was the angel's mission but to announce to all the people remaining on the earth, for a final time, that they could be saved from the doom, which was to come, by turning from the Antichrist and the false prophet and choosing eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Lamb that was slain! And he spoke loudly for all the world to hear (because the message was urgent!)

This, together with the preaching of the 144,000, and the prophesy of the two witnesses, fulfilled the promise Jesus made to His disciples (in John's presence), in Matthew 24:14 when He said that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end would come!"

Well, the end is obviously about to come! And this is confirmed by the announcement from the second angel who declared (in verse 7): "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality." This is further explained in Revelation 18:2-3, "And he (the angel) cried out with a mighty voice, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon, the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean and hated bird. For all the nations have drunk of (or fallen by) the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality (or luxury)!' Babylon is seen by John, in his vision, as an evil world system controlled by the Antichrist and set against God!

- It is first mentioned in Genesis 11, after the flood, with Nimrod and his followers building the city of Babel, and a tower as a monument to himself, rather than obeying God's command "to be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth," thus beginning a chain of rebellion through time against God!
- Ancient Babylon was a dominating power throughout the later centuries of the Old Testament, and God used them to judge Israel, as they led the children of Israel into exile, with Nebuchadnezzar and his forces destroying the temple in Jerusalem, among other things!
- Spiritual Babylon has never gone away! And the physical city (possibly a code name for Rome) will likely return during the tribulation and become the headquarters for the Antichrist! And "Babylon" will influence the world with great evil!
- Revelation 17 calls it "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth"! Symbolizing spiritual adultery and religious apostasy and fornication, and the abomination of desolation!
- Babylon the Great, or Antichrist, will intoxicate the people of the world with religious heresy and the blood of God's people, and the luxury and opulence of material wealth, political power and worldwide commerce, and all kinds of corruption, and thrive for a time, until Christ's return!

And a third angel, "with a loud voice," warns, in verses 9-11, that "anyone who worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger, and will be tormented with fire and brimstone...with the smoke of their torment going up forever and ever...!"

Walvoord notes that "the doctrine of eternal punishment, though unpopular with liberal scholars and difficult (even for believers) to accept, is nevertheless clearly taught in the Bible! Jesus Himself said this, in Matthew 25:31-41, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all

the angels with Him, then he will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on the right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...! Then He will also say to those on His left. Depart from Me, accursed ones, to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels!' (And we know how God "rained down fire and brimstone" on Sodom and Gomorrah, in Genesis 19!)

All of which explains all the opportunities offered by God to the people of the world (both now and then) to accept the offer of salvation through Christ!

Well, there's some closing advice from John for all of us, but particularly for those who go through great trials and tribulation!

"Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus!" MacArthur says that if anyone wants to know if true faith perseveres, this is the place in the Bible to see it! Because persecution against believers and the fury of Satan will be greater here than at any other time in history, and so if believers persevere here, they'll persevere anywhere! (Also note the faith of the "heroes" in the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11, "who died in faith, without receiving the promise, but welcomed it from afar"!)

Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will perform (i.e., perfect) it until the day of Jesus Christ!"

John 10:28 quotes Jesus: "And I will give them eternal life, and they will never perish, neither will anyone snatch them out of My hand!"

Well, John heard another voice from heaven, with another instruction to write it down and it's the second of seven "beatitudes" in Revelation! Which seems an appropriate ending for this passage! "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" Followed by an affirming "Yes" from the Spirit! "So that they may rest from their labors, for their deed follow with them!" (J. Vernon McGee noted that "while God doesn't save us based on our works, He does reward us for them!")

The apostle Paul put it this way (in Philippians 1:21), "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain!"

Psalms 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!"

But John also left us some words to live by! "Fear God and give Him the glory! Worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and springs of water!"

It will be worth it!

Blessings!

Lowell