

Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 2:55 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Revelation 14:14-20

"And He (God the Father) gave Him (God the Son) authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man!" (John 5:27)

Remember last week's lesson on Revelation 14:6-13? John, the beloved disciple, exiled on the Isle of Patmos, in another vision, saw and heard three more angels deliver important last-minute messages during the coming tribulation for all people remaining on the earth to hear! The first angel, "flying in the mid-heaven" and preaching the "eternal gospel," calling all people everywhere to "fear God and give Him the glory, because the hour of judgment has come"! A second angel, proclaiming that Babylon the great, which had made all the nations "drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality," has fallen! And a third angel announcing, "in a loud voice" (for all to hear) that "anyone who worships the beast (Antichrist) or his image, or receives the mark of the beast, will drink of wine of the wrath of God" (at full strength) and be "tormented with fire and brimstone...with the smoke of their torment rising forever and ever"!

The third angel also challenged believers and followers of Christ, who were undergoing unparalleled persecutions and threats of martyrdom during the tribulation, to "persevere" in keeping the commands of God and their faith in Jesus!

Then John heard another voice from heaven (presumably from Christ), telling him to write the second of seven "beatitudes" to be given in Revelation, this one noting how "blessed" those are who "die in the Lord"! This was followed by an affirmation from the Holy Spirit, noting how those who die would be able to "rest from their labors" and that their deeds would "follow with them"!

This amply set the scene for last night's lesson on Revelation 14:14-20, where John recorded more of what will be taking place during the last days of the Tribulation!

Revelation 14:1 says, "Then John looked, and behold (another "wow" moment!), a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man...!" (Interestingly, John wrote, in Revelation 1:13, that when he first "heard a loud voice like sound of a trumpet" coming from heaven and was told to "write in a book what he saw," he turned and saw what he would describe as "one like a son of man"! It was, in fact, the resurrected Christ!)

"Son of Man" is the messianic title of Jesus Christ in Scripture, cited many times, beginning in the Old Testament and the name Jesus used to identify himself during His earthly ministry!

- In Matthew 8:20, He responded to a scribe: "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head!"
- In Matthew 24:29-30, in responding to His disciples' question about the sign of His second coming: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory!" (Wow! What a great fit for our lesson!)

- In Matthew 26:63-64, standing on trial before the high priest: "But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, 'I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God! Jesus said to him, 'You have said it yourself; nevertheless, I tell you; hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of Heaven!'"

In Daniel 7:13-14, an amazing prophecy from Daniel, so consistent with the account in Revelation: "I kept looking in the night vision, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days (speaking of God the Father) and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom; that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him! His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed!"

John must have been the first one to see the similarities, yet the contrasts, between the Son of Man during His earthly ministry and the One He observed, in a vision, in heaven ("having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand")! MacArthur notes how:

- The first time He came as a servant; the second time He will be coming as the Sovereign King!
- The first time He came alone to live in an obscure little town; the second time to come with His holy angels to reign over the whole world!
- The first time He came in humility; the next time in glorious majesty and splendor!
- The first time to "seek and save the lost;" the second time to "judge the lost"!
- The first time as the "Sower" of the seed; the second time as the "reaper"!

Revelation 14:16 says, "Then He who sat on the cloud (the Son of Man) swung the sickle over the earth and the earth was reaped!"

But it's also interesting to see the role of "angels" in this sequence of judgments to come! Revelation 14:19 says, "So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God!"

The latter seems to relate directly to Jesus' explanation of the "parable of the tares," in Matthew 13:47-50, "Then He left the crowd and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' And He said, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are the angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age! The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth! Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear!"

Some commentators see the reaping, or the harvesting, of the grain and then of the grapes as two separate phases of God's final judgment on the earth, the first one relating to the seven "bowls" judgments that will destroy the whole world system of Babylon; the second one serving as a metaphor for the Battle of Armageddon!

Jeremiah 51:33 says, "For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'the daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time it is stamped firm; yet in a little while the time of harvest will come for her!'"

Joel 3:1-3 and 10, says, "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations...Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the press is full; the vats overflow, for the wickedness is great!"

The resulting "blood coming out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles" (as recorded in Revelation 14:20) is hard to fathom! And yet, without question, there will obviously be a heavy shedding of blood as part of the tremendous outpouring of God's final judgment on evil mankind! (We'll be looking into all this in more detail in upcoming lessons!)

Walvoord summarizes our last three lessons about coming events, described in Revelation 14, this way: "Revelation 14 emphasizes first that 144,000 of Israel seen at the beginning of the great tribulation will be preserved triumphantly through it! The rest of the chapter is devoted to various pronouncements of divine judgment upon an evil world, reassuring tribulation believers that, though they may suffer and even be martyred, God's ultimate justice will triumph; evil will be judged; and they will be rewarded! The implication of the message is clear! Today is a day of grace, but what is true of the tribulation is also true today, that God will ultimately judge all people! Today, however, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation!"

Be sure of your standing with the Son of Man!

Lowell