

Revelation- Class 10 (Revelation 14-15) “When God’s Wrath is Full”

Recap:

We were able to look at chapters 12 and 13 from a 10,000 foot view
As John would describe seven signs, giving a fuller story of the key players
Not only in the end times but throughout the drama of Scripture.

The key players:

- The Woman, representing Israel.
- The Dragon, representing Satan.
- The Man-Child, referring to Jesus.
- The Angel Michael, head of the angelic host.
- The offspring of the woman-
 - Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation.
- The beast out of the sea, representing the antichrist.
- The beast out of the earth-
 - the false prophet who promotes the antichrist.¹



John recorded not only the tension between the woman, the dragon and the Child writing it as a flashback in time... imagine the next scene being in heaven with the word’s “the present day”- recording of what he would call a war in heaven
Between Satan and his angels against the Heavenly host.

Key thoughts for me:

1. This war would last one verse! **Revelation 12:7,**
“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,”

- a. What does it take for a battle to be considered a war?



“War’ defined by Webster’s Dictionary is a state of open and declared, hostile armed conflict between states or nations, or a period of such conflict. This captures a particularly political-rationalistic account of war and warfare, i.e., that war needs to be explicitly declared and to be between states to be a war.”²

¹ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-12/>

² <https://iep.utm.edu/war/#:~:text='War'%20defined%20by%20Webster's%20Dictionary,states%20to%20be%20a%20war.>

- b. As mentioned last week, the shortest war in human history was only 40-minutes long.
2. Satan would lose the battle, he and his army all cast down unto Earth
 - a. Earth now feeling the full impact of the 1/3 of angels that originally fell.
3. Possibly livid, **A DESPERATE ENTITY** who has experienced defeat continuously still sought to destroy Israel and anyone in between.
 - a. Kicked out of Heaven from the 1st sin
 - b. Promised defeat in Genesis 3
 - c. Defeated by the cross and placed in open shame
 - d. Defeated and forever kicked out of heaven
 - e. Israel would evade him, being hidden by God
 - f. Gentiles, who come to faith during the tribulation
 - i. People who may not be theologians
 - ii. People are younger than this ancient serpent
 - iii. Will be able to OVERCOME HIM

Revelation 12:11 (NLT), “¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.”

We ended our time mentioning the roles of the Anti-Christ
Both empowered to fool people into believing in them rather than God.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

This is one of the big topics a lot of Christians speculate what it will be.
We could spend the remaining time of our lesson on this topic alone
But let me just skim the surface of this interesting conversation



Here’s what we know (solely based on Scripture)

Revelation 13: 15-17 (ESV), “And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

- It is a mark for those who worship the Anti-Christ
- It is a mark given to all humans regardless of economic class, nationality, or background
- A person cannot buy or sell unless this mark was present.
- Those who don’t choose the mark will either die out or be killed outright.

Those that choose to take on the mark of the beast will not be forgiven.

Revelation 14: 9-11, “⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

This is a choice with eternal ramifications.

Here's what **WE DON'T KNOW** (Because Scripture is Silent)

- What will it look like?
- Is it a tattoo or is it technology?
- I don't know... but here are some points to the conversation

1. The Mark of the Beast is a prediction of a cashless, worldwide economy

a. Could it be a microchip?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksw-arKvMPk>

b. Could it be a tattoo able to be scanned?

i. A barcode tattooed on one's body

ii. A QR code

c. A Vaccine?



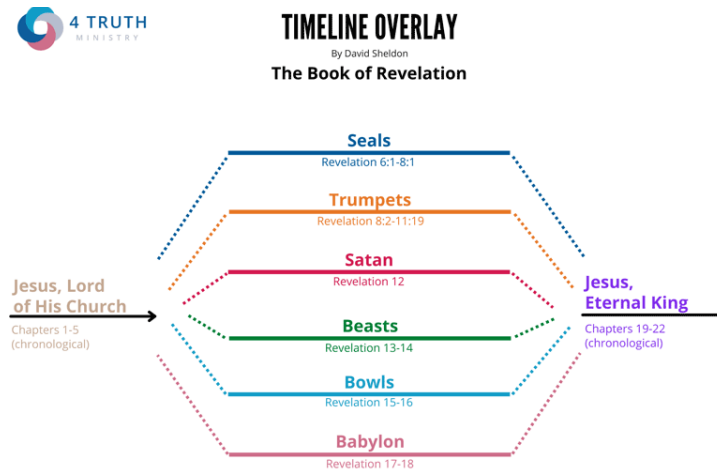
2. The Mark of the Beast is **SYMBOLIC**

“As the invisible seal of the Spirit confirms the divine ownership of God's servants (7:3), so the mystical mark of the beast confirms those who thus sell themselves to the 'system'... the forehead symbolizes the mind, the thought-life, the philosophy of the person. The right hand indicates his deed, action, trade, industry, etc. Therefore receiving the mark of the beast on the forehead or right hand indicates... that either preeminently in what he thinks, says, writes or more emphatically in what he does- this antichristian spirit becomes evident.”³

³ Steve Gregg, *Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary*, Pg. 303

Revelation 14

Before we dive back into the study, it is important to note, especially if you're confused by this book, it doesn't go in **CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**. You can think of chapters 12-15 as previews for coming attractions.



John uses symbolism, metaphors, and also foreboding and hopeful glimpses
In chapters 12-13, John has given us Satan's perspective of falling and failing
He's given us the larger view of the Anti-Christ and the False prophet
Of their ministry and their effectiveness

We don't know if God is giving John a hopeful glimpse
Rather than leave the reader on a cliff hanger, the enemy has won!

Practical Note: God always has more to the story...
God is the one who gets the last word, last punctuation mark.
No matter what circumstances say, medical reports show, lies, etc.

Imagine if you came to faith during the tribulation

- The world as you knew it is unrecognizable.
- The smell, hard to breathe, dangerous, the hunger, the fear
- And if you're able to look up, you could see things just get worse
- "when it rains... it pours"

Maybe this is you today... it may not be the end of the literal world
But you feel the crushing, the pain, the frustration
And it's no just raining, it's downpour with no end in sight...

You... believers in the end times... **WE ARE TRIUMPHANT.**

Romans 8:37, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

1 John 5:4-5, “⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

1 Corinthians 15:57, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 2:14, “¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”

“Believers triumphs and victories in this life are incomplete and marred by setbacks and defeats. The world, the flesh, and the devil take their toll on our best efforts.”⁴

I open the chapter with this in mind, so that we can feel, even for a moment of the sense of victory, elation, in the midst of a broken world in the midst of what has been done to them, said about them,

When living in obedience to Christ isn’t welcomed, celebrated, accepted, or wanted... we are reintroduced to the 144,000.

Not 143,999 but 144,000- meaning that they made it through the tribulation.

Revelation 14:1-5, “Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.”

Mount Zion: Which one?

Heavenly Zion (Eze. 28:13-15, Rev. 21:10). – **SEAL FAILED**

- The 144,000 are like the young Jewish men who survived the fiery furnace in Daniel 3:19-25.
- They prove God’s ability to preserve His people.⁵

Earthly Zion (Micah 4), referring to Jerusalem <- **THE SEAL WORKED!**

⁴ John MacArthur, *Revelation 12-22 Commentary*, Pg.68

⁵ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-14/>

- The belief that if this is a picture of the future, the 144,000 will be ushering in the Millennial reign (1,000 years),
- People will be born and still have a chance to be deceived by Satan
- But the ministry of the 144,000 will continue on

³ ***and they were singing a new song before the throne...***

If we adopt the view that these 144,000 evangelists are on the Earthly Mount Zion

It's important to note where their song was heard.

It was heard before the throne of God.

Can we hold on to that for a moment?

**imagining that you are transported to the throne of God (for prayer, worship, just being)*

"To be rapt in praise to God is the highest state of the soul. To receive the mercy for which we praise God for is something; but to be wholly clothed with praise to God for the mercy received is far more. Why, praise is heaven, and heaven is praise! To pray is heaven below, but praise is the essence of heaven above. When you bow in adoration, you are at your very highest." (Spurgeon)⁶

One more note before we move on...

it's interesting that their calling, trials, and experience shared

Is what caused them to have a brand new song, no one knew except them.

Isn't true of us today, that when we go through hard times

we each face unique situations, where we are crushed in different ways

And a song of faith, hope, love, worship, adoration is the fruit of it.

To sing unto God, but also to point others to hope beyond their circumstances.

If you're going through a hard time right now, God is developing a symphony in you.

Virgins: is this literal? Is this really important?

1. Yes, **LITERAL**. This will be huge because of the decay of the world.
 - a. As people worship demons, sink deeper into sexual sin, these men will keep themselves set apart from the world.
2. Maybe not literal but **SYMBOLIC**
 - a. Other translations use the word chaste rather than virgins, which means that some of the 144,000 may be married, and since the marriage bed doesn't defile a person, they will be considered chaste.
 - b. The idea is that either virgins or chaste preachers, they will be morally pure.

⁶ Ibid.

3. This is a reference to their **SPIRITUAL PURITY**
 - a. Virginity in the Bible isn't always in connection with sexual purity.
 - i. **2nd Corinthians 11:1-2, "I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! ² For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."** – He's writing to a church made up of different ages and marital statuses.
 1. The context of the audience is that they are in a midst of a sexually immoral culture.
 2. God can redeem and make the dirtiest sinner, white as snow.
 - ii. The Old Testament referred to Israel as being a virgin (2nd Kings 19:21, Lamentations 2:13)

Why is this important? The 144,000 will not be the exception of being made clean
 But you and I are able to be washed by the blood of the Lamb
 Allowing us to be renewed, cleaned, and are new living creations

2nd Corinthians 5:17, "17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes...

"They allow no rivals, no refusals, and no restraint to mar their dedication to Him... Does the Lord need someone to beard the beast at some high function of state and roundly denounce him, his policy, his stagecraft, his religion, his economic boycott, his mark, his ministers, his alliance with Satan? There are 144,000 ready to go Does the Lamb need evangelists to proclaim to the untold millions the Gospel of the coming kingdom of God? To climb the highest Himalayas, to cross the desert sands, to blaze evangelistic trails through steaming jungles, or to mush huskies across wide arctic wastes? There are 144,000 ready to go!"⁷

One pastor stated, God sent the 144,000 as the infantry
 And in verse six He sends the air support

Revelation 14:6-7, "⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

⁷ MacArthur, 78

God dispatches an angel to proclaim the gospel
to every person still surviving
This is the **ONLY TIME** we see an angel proclaiming the gospel



God's chosen vessels to use to communicate the gospel
are primarily humans.
To every tribe, nation, and tongue...
so that no one will have an excuse of "I didn't know!"

This will speak to the person who had that age old question, "what about that person in a hut?"
For some people, this is a red herring, a question that deflects and gets people off topic
We can read this and realize that God is under control, He'll take care of His word going out
What about you?

Other key notes here...

- #1. Some translations will say he was mid-sky, the idea is he's at the peak in the sky
So all can see it
- #2. The angel will say in a loud voice... so all can hear it
- #3. Worship- to kiss the hand towards **-THE CREATOR**
This also will put an end to the evolution/creation debate

Revelation 14:8, "8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

We will discuss Babylon more in depth in Revelation 17
So let me simply define Babylon as an organization of humans rebelling against God.
This could be represented by a **RELIGIOUS, POLITICL, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, OR A LITERAL CITY.**
All stemming from the evil character of Babylon seen in Scripture.

She has made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality...

The main idea here is spiritual fornication.
Worshipping other gods, including the Anti-Christ

Revelation 14:9-10, "9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

When we think of angels, many times we can think of them as soft
glowing with a sense of warmth
but I want you to imagine these angels who are familiar with the wrath of God
familiar with the Lake of Fire that was created for their fellow fallen angels (Matt. 25:41)

Imagine the urgency, passion, intensity...

Because as mentioned before,

Those that take the mark of the beast do so knowingly.

It will be an act of rebellion towards God and allegiance towards the Anti-Christ taking the mark of the beast and worshipping him goes hand in hand.

Notice the cup that person will drink, God's wrath, **POURED FULL STRENGTH...**

This isn't a diluted drink, but it's full impact and potency.

"The full fury of God's wrath, so long restrained, will be unleashed. Such wrath is not an impulsive outburst of divine emotion aimed at people whimsically. It is the settled, deliberate, merciless, graceless response of the right God against all sinners... God's eschatological wrath will be undiluted vengeance unmixed with any trace of compassion."⁸

What would this reveal about Jesus?

Some commentators would state that this was the same cup Jesus took on our behalf.

Matthew 26:39, "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Revelation 14:11, "¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Some people have come up with a theory of annihilation...

They'll pay their debt and God will either allow them into heaven or no longer exist.

The smoke of their torment...

Communicates that their torment will be continual forever and ever.
it's painful and repulsive.

Interesting to note that according to the Mounce Translation it adds...

In the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb...

"This shows that God is not absent from hell. He is present in all His holiness and righteous judgment. Those who are in hell will wish God were absent, but He will not be. It is wrong to say that hell will be devoid of the presence of God; but it will be without any sense of His love. The presence of Jesus will be there, but only the presence of His holy justice and wrath against sin."

⁸ MacArthur, Pg. 91

Revelation 14:12-13, ¹² Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

For the people who come to faith during the tribulation,
Blessed are you because you get a rest from the torment taking place on earth.

For their deeds follow them...

The works done in Jesus' name, the effort, the sacrifice, the patience, endurance, dedication
Follow us into Heaven.

This idea gives significance and dignity to the work done here in the now.

Practical:

When you serve, you are literally impacting eternity

When you give, when you pray, when you disciple, when you step out for Jesus

What was done in secret, what was sown in tears, what was sown in pain

It's not wasted.

Galatians 6:9, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Revelation 14:14-16, ¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped."

Here Jesus himself comes on a cloud with a sickle.
And He reaps, casts the final judgement upon the Earth.
We'll get more details of what this reaping will look like
But the Father's wrath is filled to the brim,
and tells the Son, to reap



This is in line when Jesus talked about separating
The chaff from the wheat.

One commentator stated that weeds and wheat can look very similar

And so it's up to Jesus to discern and know which one is

A weed and which one is wheat.

Revelation 14:17-20, “¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.”

Angels have been seen as helping carrying out the judgements.
The ripeness...
gives a picture of people bursting with the juice of wickedness
God has been **VERY PATIENT**

John is given a preview of the seven bowl judgements
But those that survive... we'll get more detail in Revelation 19
But many believe this is a reference to the Battle of Armageddon

Simply: the Anti-Christ will raise an army to fight against Jesus
It won't be a battle, it'll be a blood bath.



and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.”

Some commentators will state that within the Megiddo valley
They will be crushed that the blood will be as high as a horse' bridle (4-6 feet high)
For 1,600 stadia... for 26 miles wide, 180 miles long.

“You have two options: Either drown in the horrific bloodbath of Armageddon, or bathe in the gracious blood of the Lamb. Truly, the greatest bloodshed in all of history took place not in a world war, but when Jesus died on the cross in order to wash us in His blood.”

Hebrews 10:31, “³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Revelation 15:1-8, “¹⁵ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them **THE WRATH OF GOD IS FINISHED. ² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,**

**“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations**

***⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”***

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Parells for the Song of Moses

The song of Moses was sung near the red sea
The song of the lamb was sung near the glassy sea
The song of Moses dealt with rescue
The song of the lamb deals with rapture
The song of Moses was sung by those brought out of Egypt
The song of the Lamb is sung by those brought into heaven.