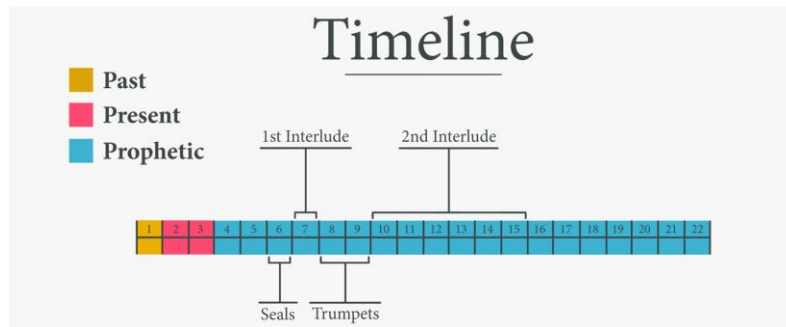


Revelation 14:6-20 – Three Angels, Harvest And Seven Angels



Rev. 14:6-8: *“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and language...”*

- Vss. 6-7 tells us the gospel will be spread. This is the fulfilling of Mt. 24:14. It could be that the 144,000 sealed Jews are evangelizing the world at this time. Rev. 14:1-5 mentions them and then goes into the message of vs. 6.
- There are those who believe this angel is the one proclaiming the gospel. This is a prevalent view. It shows the enemy cannot stop the message from going out. He flies at noon, when the sun is at its highest, the idea being everyone would see and hear it.
- It could be with all the persecution happening on earth, God makes sure to get His message out.

J. Vernon McGee writes, *“The times are so intense in the Great Tribulation period that only angels can get the messages of God through to the world. Angels are indestructible.”*

- Note that the message of salvation is for everyone. Jesus died for all who have ever lived (Jn. 3:16).
- There is the viewpoint that this is a gospel of warning, of judgment, not of salvation unless that warning brings people to salvation.
- Still others believe this gospel given by the angel is a Rom. 1:18 message, a call to believe in God based on creation and conscience, not 1 Cor. 15 and the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Note Rev. 14:7. It is a message that God is sovereign, and only those who come by faith to Him understand that.
- Vs. 7 is a warning of further judgment that is to come. Whether this is directed towards the people of earth or just stated, things are going to continue to get worse on earth during this time of the tribulation.
- Some believe this is the last call for people to repent and turn to Christ.
- Vs. 8 is a preview of what is going to happen when we get to Rev. 17-18. We will get into this in more detail in those two chapters. This is the fall of the entire political, religious, and economic kingdom of the antichrist.
- Remember, these chapters (Rev. 10-15) are not necessarily chronological but deal with different topics.

Rev. 14:9-13: *“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...”*

- Vs. 9 is important but sobering. The words “worships” and “receives” are active voice verb tenses in the Greek, meaning people make the choice on their own to receive the mark of the beast. This does fulfill 2 Thess. 2:9-12 where God allows man to believe the delusion of the enemy by his own choice to reject God.
- I do not believe those who receive the mark can be saved. The Bible seems to indicate otherwise. They have made their choice by continually rejecting God.
- Vss. 10-11 tell us the results of those who take the mark.

A) They will face (drink), experience, God’s wrath, and judgment.

B) They will suffer forever in the lake of fire.

C) Note it says they will be tormented in the “presence” (before one’s eyes, in one’s sight) of the holy angels and Christ. I have no idea how this will occur. Christ is All-Knowing and Omnipresent so in fact, nothing is out of His view, but the angels are not either of these. They are limited in knowledge and presence.

D) Some think that the “wrath” noted in vs. 10 that Christ and the angels will see is what is going on in regard to the earth, all the judgments happening here.

E) Sadly, the judgment for rejecting Christ is eternal (vs. 11).

- Vs. 12 discusses those who are believers who will go through great difficulties and yet will show “endurance”, showing unwavering faith during this time. They will not receive the mark of the beast.
- Vs. 13 tells us “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” This statement points to how bad things are about to get during the tribulation period.
- Vs. 13 tells us that these individuals will “rest” from their “labors.” The word “labor” is tied with their work for the Lord under difficult circumstances, an intense labor for God under persecution. The intensity is tied to the opposition they face. They will be rewarded for what they have done for the Lord, their “deeds.”
- It seems that those who come to faith in Christ during the tribulation period are “on fire for God.”

Lehman Strauss notes, *“What a contrast between the destiny of those who follow Christ and them who follow the Antichrist!”*

Rev. 14:14-20: *“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...”*

- The “white cloud” represents the glory and power of God (Ex. 16:10; Mt. 17:5).
- Vs. 14 mentions one like a “son of man.” This is Christ. This phrase is common in the Gospels and refers to Jesus (Mt. 16:27-28; Lk. 5:24).
- Jesus uses this title over 65x as a description of Himself.
- It is the Messianic title taken from Dan. 7:13-14.

- The title “Son of Man” is used three distinct ways when speaking of the Lord:
 - A) It speaks concerning His ministry on earth (Mt. 8:20).
 - B) It speaks concerning His death and resurrection (Mt. 12:40).
 - C) It speaks concerning His Second Coming (Mt. 13:41).
- “Son of Man” also denotes Deity. He forgives sin (Mk. 2:5-7, 10). He will execute judgment (Jn. 5:27). He gave His life as a ransom (Mt. 20:28).
- Vss. 14-16 notes that Jesus has a “golden crown” and a “sickle.” His crown is, in the Greek, a “Stephanos” crown, a “victor’s crown,” a crown of triumph.
- Regarding the sickle, this can be seen in passages such as Mt. 13:24-30 and Joel 3:11-17, where it speaks of the coming in of the millennium but there is no doubt that vss. 14-15 speak of judgment as things are coming to a close.
- The word “ripe” (vs. 15) means “dry or withered”, or the “overripening of the crops.” These are not saints of the tribulation. This is judgment, that the time is ripe for judgment, that God has given man a chance to repent (2 Peter 3:9).
- The people of the earth, by their decision, will face the time of judgment. The crop will be “overripe,” ready for harvesting, and in this case, judgment. We see this unfolding as we go through Revelation.

Chuck Swindoll notes, *“Instantly, the Son of Man swept His sickle over the earth and executed judgment. Commentator Robert Thomas notes, “The brevity of the statement dramatizes the suddenness of the judgment.” Like an overripe wheat field that demands immediate attention by the harvester, the evil of humanity will call for swift and decisive justice. The apostle Peter, after reminding his readers of the patience of God in delaying judgment, informed his readers, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief” (2 Pet. 3:10). God is patient and merciful, but one day the earth will experience the sharp edge of His “terrible, swift sword.”*

- In vs. 17 another angel comes from heaven carrying a sharp sickle, one like Jesus had.
- In vss. 18-20 another angel came out from the altar who had authority over the fire and called for the angel with the sickle to gather from the “earth” (unbelievers) and they are thrown into the “winepress” of God’s judgment. Believers are not included in this.
- In the ancient world grapes were put into a bathtub shaped vat usually carved into rock and connected to a lower gathering chamber. As the grapes were crushed, the juice flowed into the chamber and was put in jars.
- That picture is used to describe God’s judgment on mankind’s rebellious state.
- Vss. 19-20 refers to the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16; Rev. 19:15-21). We will see this battle in more detail.
- The image is of someone stomping grapes and the grape juice splattering. The blood will splatter as high as the bridle of horses. Armageddon is more than one battle, and it will encompass almost the entire land of Israel.