

# The Final Call

*Revelation 14:1-13*

## BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 14:1-13 NKJV] 1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred [and] forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred [and] forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. 6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- 7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." 8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." 9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "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. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

## INTRO

The Playing field in the last age. The battlefield is laid out:

- One side: Dragon - Satan, Beast out of the Earth - Anti Christ, Beast out of the sea - the false prophet, demonic armies, the armies of the nations of the world.
- Other side: Lamb - Jesus Christ, 144,000 chosen men, tribulation saints, 2 mighty and miraculous witnesses and many mighty angels.

The world has a new political system, religious system, and economic system. In order to survive, people will be forced to choose allegiance to the antichrist by taking his mark or choose to be persecuted and even executed for their faith in Jesus, but as we will see today, to die for Christ is this last time is the good end of the deal compared to what everyone else gets.

As we will see today, ***those who die for their Christian testimony only suffer temporarily and then enter into eternal bliss. Those who take the road of rebellion to Christ will have temporary success but suffer eternal torments.***

## NOTES

Chapters 12-14 are what many people call parenthetical chapters. God takes a moment from the chronology of events to insert a big-picture message. It's almost as if He's giving us a breather before diving back into the beginning of the final seven bowl judgments.

Chapter 14 - a reminder that Jesus is coming back.

Then I looked (saw) - three times (verses 1,6,14).

### **1. The Lamb:**

Lamb - Jesus (26 times). Emphasizes the sufficient sacrifice of Christ as in the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant: Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Mount Zion - in heaven or on earth? Jerusalem or a picture of what's going on in heaven.

- Scene on earth - voice comes from heaven

**Jesus Posture - He is standing:**

- [Psa 110:1 NKJV] 1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."
- [Heb 10:12-13 NKJV] 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

This site of Jesus standing on Mount Zion clearly indicates that the time of His kingdom has come. He's gone from sitting as He awaits the time of the final victory to standing, declaring His final victory.

**His Position - On Mount Zion:**

- Mt Zion - 158 times is a reference to Jerusalem
- Most likely a picture ahead to the end of the story, when Jesus returns to Mount Zion
- Millennial Kingdom - [Psa 2:4-6 NKJV] 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."
- [Joe 2:30-32 NKJV] 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

**The place where Jesus was hated, He will not be worshipped. The place where he was crucified He will be glorified. The place He hung on a tree He will stand in victory!**

**2. The Loyal:**

**AS Jesus stands in His victory, we see His tribulation crew standing with Him.**

**and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.**

144,000 - Chapter 7 - God's name is the seal written on their foreheads. They were divinely protected from the antichrist and wrath because of God's name over them.

**Remember at the end of chapter 13, folks who worship the beast have their allegiance sealed with a mark in their right hand or forehead. The number 666. Here's the godly antithesis. These witnesses are bolder in their righteousness than the devil is with his**

## **rebellion. Their allegiance is sealed - not with a mere number on their forehead - but with God's holy name**

- Jewish believers, 12,000 from each tribe.
- Part of God's last evangelistic campaign on the earth.
- Virgins - men - pure and set apart to Christ (possibly figurative or literal) - Israel referred to as a virgin. The church referred to as a virgin (pure bride to Christ)
- Follow the lamb - A centralized, prioritized focus on following Jesus and His mission. Wherever - there was no place off limits or not considered. They didn't take their own lives or will into account but wanted to be where Jesus was and where Jesus wanted them.
- Redeemed and first fruits - proof that this is in an era different from the church.
  - Jesus was the first fruits of those who would rise from the dead.
  - The church is the first fruits of His redeemed creatures (James 1:18)
  - The 144,000 are the first fruits of the tribulation saints or end time harvest.
- Without fault - not because they are sinless, but because Jesus presented them faultless (Jude)

### **The Songs:**

**2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.**

- I don't want to harp on this, but there really are heavenly beings playing harps in heaven.
- Heaven is a musical place. There's something special about singing that connects us emotionally and spiritually to God.
  - EXAMPLE: Maybe you and your spouse or significant other or best friend have "your song."
  - Back in chapter 5 we saw the song of the redeemed that only the church can sing.
  - Here, the 144,000 have a special song that connects them to the plan and purpose of God.
  - In heaven the voice of God is surrounded by melody and music and God's people singing praises.

- We hear music but we don't see the band. No, no attention is on the lead harp player because all focus is on the throne and on the Lamb

## **The Angels:**

There are Six angels in chapter 14 - wait, isn't six the number that we don't want? Well, there's also "one like the Son of Man with a golden crown." Jesus is the seventh, which perfects God's plan on the earth.

### **First three angels:**

#### **The angel of the gospel: Invitation of God's Mercy**

**6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- 7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."**

**Never happened before. It is the only time we see an angelic being entrusted with the preaching of the gospel.**

- Out of 100 occurrences, this is the only time we see the gospel with this unique title "everlasting."
  - The gospel of the kingdom
  - The gospel of Jesus Christ
  - The gospel of God
  - The gospel of the grace of God
  - The Gospel of Peace
  - The Gospel of the glory of Christ
  - The gospel of salvation
  - The Gospel of the Blessed God
  - In all cases we see the Greek word "Evangelion," meaning "Good tidings."
    - It's good news that the kingdom of God is at work
    - It's good news that we can have peace with the glorious, blessed God.
    - It's good news that Jesus gives us grace
    - It's good news that salvation has come to a sinking, doomed humanity!
- And this good news is EVERLASTING! It's the everlasting gospel. It's good today, it will be good tomorrow, and the effects of the gospel will never end. Forever, we are forgiven. Forever, we have peace with God. Forever, we will be free and healed. Forever, we will have abundant, joyful life!

**"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."**

**We know that the gospel of Jesus is preached, and now we see the response that is expected**

The proclamation is the appropriate response to the gospel, not necessarily the gospel.

- Exhibited. The gospel must be preached to the entire world before the end comes. An angel can get the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- Why doesn't God just do this now? Because the burden of the gospel and the lost should belong to us.

*"Apparently, God sees value in using folks saved by grace to share His grace. I suppose we have one advantage over angels... Angels are good salesmen. They preach grace, but they've never tasted grace. We on the other hand aren't as much salesmen as we are satisfied customers. Though far less efficient, perhaps we're more effective. Our lives are proof of God's amazing grace. We share what we've savored." -Sandy Adams*

- Chapter 14 - over half of the world's population is dead or gone.
- God still gives everyone an opportunity to repent! No one has an excuse.

### **The Angel of Babylon: Declaration Of God's earthly Justice**

**8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."**

- A reference to the fall of a wicked world empire - chapters 17-18
- Zion is the center of the Kingdom of Jesus that rises. Babylon represents the kingdom of the earth that falls.
- Later, the "Babylon" of the earth gets the nickname "The Great whore." That's not a compliment. Babylon represents rebellion and spiritual adultery against God. We will talk more about Babylon in chapter 17, but for now, it's sufficient to recognize this very important principle:
  - There is no kingdom that can stand alone on its wealth, prosperity, self-sufficiency, or military might.
  - In the matter of one day, Great Babylon, the powerhouse of the earth in all things, will become a desolate wasteland of smoke and ashes.
- **Human power and authority can shift and fail in a matter of moments. Is your hope, faith, and strength built on the solid rock of God's authority, on the kingdom that can never be shaken and will rule eternally on the earth?**

- *Remember, every earthly authority that stands up against God will one fall down before His presence.*

### The angel of judgment: Condemnation - God's eternal Judgment

**9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "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. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."**

- Loyalty to the beast gets you eternal enemy status with God. There is no forgiveness after this point.
- Those who fell on the earth for their commitment to Christ are now standing on the earth in victory with the risen King. Those who stood on earth in loyalty to the antichrist now fall into eternal judgment and torment with the king that they chose.

AW Tozer once wrote, **"The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consequences of millions."**

- Once, a pastor was preaching passionately when he noticed that one of his congregation had fallen asleep. He decided to make an example out of the ole boy so he whispered, "Everyone who wants to go to heaven stand up." Everyone but the sleeper stood... Then the pastor shouted, "Everyone who wants to go to hell stand up." The pastor's loud voice startled the sleeper. He jumped up to see what was going on. Once he got his wits about him, he said to the pastor, "Preacher, I don't know what we're voting on, but it looks like you and I are the only ones in favor of it."
- Understand, Jesus isn't in favor of anyone going to Hell. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us He's **"not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance..."** However, those who sleep to the truth now will one day awake to an unsuspecting reality of God's justice, holiness, and righteous judgment.

### APPLICATION



**3. Hell is eternal - there is no rest. There is no end.**

**4. Hell is a choice - no one will be in hell who didn't make some active choice to reject truth.**

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

***"If we believe in the literal bliss of heaven, then why should we not believe in the literal agonies of hell?"***

#### APPLICATION

During the tribulation period, there is a point of no return. Once loyalty to the beast is sworn, there won't be offers for forgiveness or second chances. It is literally the final call.

- Why is there a silver lining to this? Because today, under the grace and mercy of God, terms of surrender are available. There's not a single human being today, no matter who they are or what they've done, who can't find pardon, forgiveness, and reconciliation if they turn to Christ today.

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Jhn 5:22-24, 28-29 NKJV] 22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ... 28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

