

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of *The Revelation*. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Last week we completed a study of Rev 14:1-5 and when time expired we were exegeting Rev 14:6-7.
2. Before we continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's first look at an expanded translation of Rev 14:1-5.

Expanded Translation

Rev 14:1 I looked up and saw Christ as the Lamb of God standing in heaven on Mount Zion, the Millennial City of God, and with Him was the original 144,000 Jewish Evangelist; they had the name of God the Father on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 Then I heard a sound from heaven that was like a roaring flood of loud thunder accompanied by the music of many harps.

Rev 14:3 And I also heard a new song being sung before the throne of God and standing before that throne were the four special angels earlier seen; and with them were the Church Age saints earlier raptured. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had functioned so nobly during the Tribulation.

Rev 14:4 All of those before the throne were declared to be pure and perfect; interestingly, only the 144,000 could learn the song, for they had been preserved as God's special representatives. The 144,000 were called the first fruits of God. They had refused to worship in the whore church. In heaven they could be seen following the lamb wherever He went. The whore church was that very popular ecumenical body headquartered in Rome and allied with the Antichrist. This was the very large and wealthy "Christian church" to which many nominal and real Christians belonged.

Rev 14:5 The 144,000 were as pure as the driven snow and worthy of special praise.

4. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page four.
5. Last week we discovered the categorical meaning of "**The 144,000 were called the first fruits of God.**" These were so called because they had not worshipped the whore church. You will recall we had to go to the Old Testament for a better understanding of the concept "the first fruits."
6. The Priests of the Old Testament would designate an area where no fertilizer could be used. The area also had to be naturally watered and not irrigated.

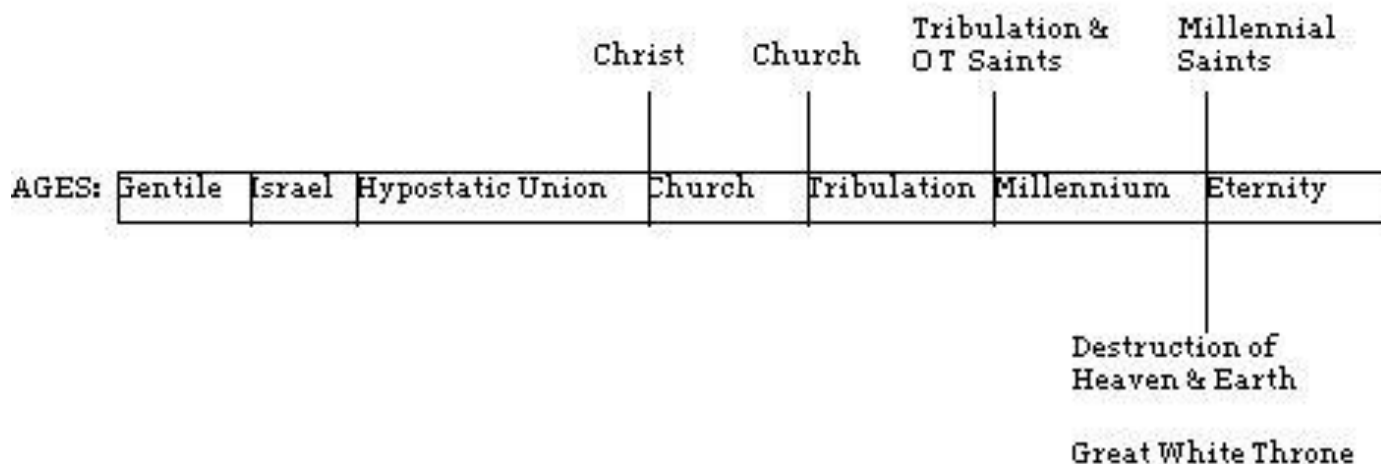
7. The first fruits produced in this area were a grace matter dependent upon the Lord only. Thus we find a wonderful training aid not unlike that taught by the psalmist in Psa 75: 7

Psa 75:7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

7.1 What a wonderful training aid to teach grace orientation and gratitude.

8. The first Fruits also taught of the resurrection; first of Christ and then the order of the Resurrection with emphasis on Israel at the Second Advent.

ORDER OF THE RESURRECTIONS



9. Christ Himself was discovered resurrected on the first Sunday following the Passover.

9.1 He was in fact resurrected sometime after the end of the Jewish Saturday (or 6 p.m.) which was the Roman Sunday or the first day of the week for Kingdom Age Israel.

10. He was resurrected as the first Fruit on the Festival Day of the First Fruits.

1Co 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep ...

1Co 15:23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

11. The 144,000 Jewish Evangelist were the first fruits of the Tribulation. This scene seems reminiscent of chapters 4 and 5 and the heavenly visions.

12. The preponderance of evidence seems to indicate that this is indeed a heavenly scene in which John is seeing "in the Spirit" while his body is on earth.

13. The 144,000 described in this chapter are the same as those seen in chapter seven. In their second mention in chapter 14, they are seen still intact, preserved by God through the fearful days of persecution and standing triumphantly with the Lamb on Mount Zion at the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ.

14. We might entitle our study of Rev 14:6-7 as "An Angel and An Everlasting Gospel."

KJV

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

NIV

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Principles:

1. Evangelism in the Tribulation is a bit unusual.
2. But then again the Tribulation is an unusual age.
3. There will be 144,000 Jewish evangelist, the resurrected Moses and Elijah, three angels and a big carnivorous bird; all spreading the Gospel throughout the World.

Jewish Evangelists

Rev 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel ...

Rev 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Elijah and Moses

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.

A Carnivorous Bird

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel a carnivorous bird flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Angelic Witnesses –Angel One

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth to every nation, tribe, language and people.
Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Angelic Witnesses – Angel Two

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Angelic Witnesses – Angel Three

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand ...

4. God will proclaim one last all out offer of grace before He buries the world under an avalanche of final judgment.

5. Three angels will fly through the atmosphere above the earth proclaiming the "everlasting gospel."

6. Walvoord has written of these angels:

"For centuries angels have wanted to get in on the act of world evangelization. Peter tells us that the angels are intensely interested in the whole story of redemption." (1Pe 1:12)

7. They have been itching to preach the gospel but God has given that privilege to us. The angels would love to push us to one side and really get the job done right.

8. 1Pe 1:10-12 tells us that the angels are all excited that God is letting us tell people about the eternal inheritance we have through Jesus Christ."

9. Now at last the angels will have their chance! The "everlasting gospel" (vs 6) emphasizes the fact that the people still living at the end of the Tribulation are on the very edge of eternity. Clearly it is a time when finally angels will see it all.

10. Now the gospel is fundamentally the same no matter what era it is preached.

11. It is good news that Christ took the penalty for every sin man would ever commit. But God has emphasized various facets of the gospel at different times.

12. The "gospel of the Kingdom," for example, though earlier proclaimed during the incarnation, will have also been preached throughout the Tribulation period.

13. It emphasizes that Christ will establish His millennial Kingdom when He returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation and that people can be part of it if they receive Christ as their Savior.

14. The description of the 144,000 in Rev 14:5 closes with the statement that they are without guile and without fault.

14.1 They are also described as being without fault, blameless and without stain, in contrast to those who are apostate, described as "faults" or "blemishes" as in 2Pe 2:13.

14.2 This makes important the life and testimony of any believer who seeks to emulate these who in this most trying time are found without compromise and without defilement. Their life is a life of truth, an attribute of God.

14.3 Christians in the present age are exhorted to be "without blame before him" (Eph 1:4), "without blemish" (Eph 5:27; 1Pe 1:19), "unblamable" (Col 1:22), "without spot" (Heb 9:14), and "faultless" (Jude 24).

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Jud 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Jud 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

14.4. All of this in the sight of God, the expression in verse 5 "before the throne of god" is not in the better manuscripts. It is better perhaps just translated "in the sight of God."

15. Now let's return to our study of Rev 14:6 and 7. Revelation chapter fourteen verses 6 and 7 in the KJV have been translated:

KJV

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

1. The gospel is everlasting in the sense that it is ageless and not for any specific period.

2. Ordinarily, one would expect the gospel to refer to what we proclaim as the good news of salvation.

3. In verse 7, however, the content of the message is quite otherwise, for it is an announcement of the hour of judgment of God and the command to worship Him.

4. The word "gospel" in the Greek is **Euaggelion** meaning "good news" and can mean either salvation doctrine or the whole realm of doctrine provided in the Canon. The word preach is a translation from **Euaggelizo**.

5. A point or two about the Gospel:

5.1 Satan as the god of this world obscures the gospel and many believers who distort the gospel are used of Satan to this end.

2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

5.2 The Mosaic Law defines unrighteousness as does also the gospel.

1Ti 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

1Ti 1:10 for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

1Ti 1:11 or that which does not conform to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

5.3 The resurrection is part of the good news of the gospel and the world's hatred of the gospel is made clear in Paul's writing to Timothy.

2Ti 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,

2Ti 2:9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

5.4 Part of the armor of God is the good news of the gospel. Our feet are to be shod with the preparation of the gospel.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

5.5 The universal communication of the gospel of the Kingdom during the first half of the Tribulation period is made clear in Matthew chapter 24 verse 14. The same is true for every age; when people want it they will get it.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

5.6 Angels then, as we have seen in detail, will announce the gospel in the Tribulation.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

5.7 Paul speaks of getting the gospel out to places where others have not gone.

Rom 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Rom 15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

5.8 The gospel is to be provided freely says Paul.

2Co 11:7 Have I committed an offense in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

2Co 11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

5.9 There are false gospels says Paul.

Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel

Gal 1:7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

Gal 1:9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

5.10 The gospel (good news of Gentile inclusion) was preached to Abraham.

Gal 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

5.11 The role of the Holy Spirit in the revelation of the gospel is established in 1Pe 1:12.

1Pe 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

1Pe 1:11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

1Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

5.12 From a categorical study we can conclude the Gospel is either some form of salvation message with emphasis on its various aspects or it is the whole realm of doctrine presented in the Scripture.

6. The everlasting gospel here seems to be neither the gospel of grace nor the gospel of the kingdom, but rather the good news that God at last is about to deal with the world in righteousness and establish His sovereignty over the world.

7. This is an ageless gospel in the sense that God's righteousness is ageless. Throughout eternity God will continue to manifest Himself in grace toward the saints and in punishment toward the wicked.

8. We are now ready for an expanded translation of Rev 14:6-7:

Expanded Translation

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel. He would sweep across the sky dipping down in slow descent to the earth. He would periodically announce the good news of Christ's impending return when He would judge all those living on planet earth. His message was made clear to all people of every race and nation; they could all hear, mankind was once again without excuse.

Rev 14:7 The angel shouted, "Worship and honor God! The time has come for Him to judge everyone. Kneel down before the One who created the heavens and the earth, the oceans, the seas, the rivers and every stream."

9. Now let's see what we can learn from verse eight:

KJV

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

NIV

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

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