

**"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"**

**Part 11**

**Revelation 12-14**

**Introduction:** When we were together the last time we started into Revelation 14 where we are still looking at the significant characters of the Tribulation. I want to do a short review before we dive into the verses that are before us today.

This **character study** started back in chapter 12 where we were introduced to several characters. We looked at the woman who represented the Nation of Israel. We looked at the Red Dragon who was Satan and the fact that he was seen as a Red Dragon did not describe his looks but instead it described his character. He is deceptive and extremely dangerous. Then we looked at how Satan took with him a third of all the angels when he fell from heaven. We then looked at the Man Child which came from the woman and this was Jesus Christ. Satan stood before the Woman to devour the Child as soon as He was born but was unable to do so. We then looked at a battle in heaven in which Michael stood up for the people of Israel and Satan and his fallen angels were cast out of heaven and they immediately began to persecute the Nation of Israel. (This will all take place at the mid-point of the Tribulation.) God will supernaturally protect the Nation of Israel and out of frustration Satan will turn upon a remnant of Israel which is most likely going to be the 144,000 Jewish Missionaries and they will be protected by God and provided for through the saved Gentiles of the Tribulation.

Then we came to chapter 13 where we were introduced to 2 Beasts and 1 significant group of individuals. The First Beast was the Anti-Christ and he will be Satan's masterpiece who will step on the scene after the church is raptured away. He will be indwelt by Satan and he will move from Political leader to Religious leader. He will rule the world during the Tribulation and the unsaved world will bow down in worship to him. This by the way is what Satan has desired from the day he was created.

**Isaiah 14:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

<sup>13</sup> *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

<sup>14</sup> *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

*<sup>15</sup> Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

Satan will work through this individual to gain this worship. There will be another Beast right by the side of the Anti-Christ and he will be the False Prophet who will do many wonders and miracles and when he does he will give all the "glory" to the Anti-Christ. He will give a command that the Earth Dwellers are to build an image of the Anti-Christ and he will then cause the unsaved to worship the image which he will have power to give life to. The image will be set up in the Temple and it will be used by Satan to control the world for the image will command that everyone take the mark of the Beast and who ever refuses will be executed.

The other group in this chapter is the Earth Dwellers and they will be people who reject the Gospel and refuse to repent. They will be sold out to the Beast and they will receive the Mark of the Beast which will seal their eternal destiny. Once they receive the Mark of the Beast it will be impossible for them to repent and be saved.

Chapter 13 is one of the darkest if not the darkest chapters found in the Word of God. But as we come out of chapter 13 we come to chapter 14 which is a breath of fresh air. Chapter 14 allows us to see that in the midst of the darkness God is at work on the earth because it is not His will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. So, in chapter 14 we meet up again with the 144,000 Jewish witnesses.

#### **Notice Revelation 14:1**

The last time we were together we looked at the scene before us in this verse and we determined it is most likely at the end of the Tribulation after the return of Jesus Christ as He prepares to set up His Kingdom. When Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation He will judge the nations.

#### **Matthew 24:29-31**

*<sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

*<sup>30</sup> And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

*<sup>31</sup> And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Then we can connect Matthew 25 to this.

**Matthew 25:32-34**

*32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

*33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

*34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

*36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

*37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

*38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

*39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

*40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

Here at the Judgment of the Nations we see 3 groups of people. The GOATS who are the unsaved, the SHEEP who are the saved of the Gentiles and the BROTHERS of Jesus Christ who are most likely the 144,000 Jewish Missionaries.

So, the scene in Revelation 14:1 is probably at the end of the Tribulation on earth and not in heaven. If it is in heaven then we would need to ask, "HOW DID THEY GET THERE?"

**Notice Revelation 14:2-3**

Here we looked at their song which only they could learn because it probably applies to what they experience while they walk on the earth during the Tribulation. It is THEIR SONG and it is extremely personal.

**Now we come to where we stopped 3 weeks ago.**

**I. The 144,000 Jewish Missionaries  
Part 2**

a. Their Character

**Notice Revelation 14:4-5**

When I look at these verses I see that these men truly set an example for all believers to follow.

The first thing we see about these men is that they are NOT defiled with women, and they are virgins. Now we know that there is nothing sinful about marriage and there is nothing sinful about sexual relations between a husband and a wife.

**Hebrews 13:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

**So, what is the Holy Spirit saying to us when He tells us they are NOT defile with women?**

In these verses we can clearly see 2 very important points concerning the character of these men.

**1. Their complete separation from the world.**

The Tribulation will be a time when sexual relations outside of marriage will be wide spread.

**Revelation 9:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

*<sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

Let me show you what Jesus said concerning the days of the Tribulation.

**Matthew 24:37-39**

*<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

*<sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

*<sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

The days of the Tribulation will be like the days of Noah when people were living to satisfy the LUSTS of the flesh. Let me put a few verses together to help you to see something.

**Genesis 4:23**

*<sup>23</sup> And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.*

Here we are not far from Creation and we see that men have multiple wives. Then we go to Noah's day.

**Genesis 6:1-3a**

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,*

*<sup>2</sup> That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

*<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man,*

Noah's Day is a picture of life during the Tribulation. We must remember that after the Rapture of the church the SPIRITUAL RESTRAINTS will be removed from mankind and they will collide with the wrath of Almighty God.

**Romans 1:24-31**

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

*<sup>25</sup> Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

*<sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

*<sup>27</sup> And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

*<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

<sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

This is what we see today because man has suppressed the Truth of God but how much more will the depravity of mankind be made manifest during the Tribulation?

Listen to the words of on Bible teacher on the immorality of the Tribulation:

*"The worship of Antichrist during the Tribulation will be unspeakably vile and perverse. As it did in the fertility cults of ancient times, sexual sin will apparently run rampant. Even in the current grossly immoral day, we can hardly imagine what the deviant sexual perversion of the Tribulation will be like. With all divine restraint removed and the unbelieving world judgmentally abandoned by God sin will be released like a flood, inundating the world."*

Getting back to the 144,000 Jewish Missionaries the point to be seen is that they will stay separated from the ways of the world. They will not be perfect, but they will be separated unto the Lamb.

## **2. Their undivided allegiance to the Lamb.**

### **Notice Revelation 14:4-5**

These men chose to remain unmarried because they are so committed to following the Lamb. Let me show you what Paul wrote to the church at Corinth.

### **1 Corinthians 7:5-9, 17, 32-33**

<sup>5</sup> Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

<sup>6</sup> But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

<sup>7</sup> For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

<sup>8</sup> I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I.

<sup>9</sup> But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

*17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.*

*32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:*

*33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.*

These men can exercise great self-control. They will voluntarily choose to forgo a life of personal pleasure so that they can be entirely focused upon the mission that will be given to them to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let me show you the Words of our Lord in Matthew.

**Matthew 19:10-12**

*10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.*

*11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.*

*12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.*

Let me show you one more thing about these men.

**Notice Revelation 14:5**

There was no GUILF in their mouth. This is in contrast to the Anti-Christ. This tells us something about their hearts.

**Luke 6:45**

*45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

**Conclusion/application:**

This is what God is looking for in you and me as His servants. We are to be devoted and walking in self-control. We are to be people sold out to following the Lamb completely separated from the world. These men were redeemed from among men which tells us they too were human just as we are. This is possible as we are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

<sup>23</sup> *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*