

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 12

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: Today in our study of Revelation we have again come to chapter 14 and today we shall meet 3 more key players in the Tribulation. They will be 3 angels with 3 very important announcements. I need to remind you of the darkness which we saw as we looked at Revelation 13. In that chapter we met the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet. Under the rule of the Anti-Christ many will die and the believers who do not see death will be persecuted heavily for their stand for the Truth. There will be an image set up in the Temple and the False Prophet will have the ability to give life to the image. The image will then be used so that the Anti-Christ will be able to control the world. The image will give the command that all the world will need to take the Mark of the Beast in order to buy or sell. Those who refused will face the wrath of the Anti-Christ people will be hunted down and killed for refusing the Mark. Many people will turn upon even their own family members and betray each other to the authorities.

Mark 13:8-13

⁸ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

⁹ But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

¹⁰ And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

¹¹ But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

¹² Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

¹³ And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Therefore, the scene in chapter 13 is very dark. But then we come to chapter 14 and here in this chapter we see that while the Anti-Christ is dominating the world, God is still in control of what is happening on the earth. He has preserved the lives of the 144,000 and He will use them to be a testimony for Him in the midst of the darkness. Now as we continue we see that God will also be at work in other ways. Evil may dominate the world, but the GRACE of God will be extended in the midst of the darkness. The 3 messages of these angels are all for the earth dwellers.

I. **The First Angel - Their Offer**

Notice Revelation 14:6

John now sees another angel flying over the earth and he will have the EVERLASTING GOSPEL to preach to those who dwell on the earth. Here again are the EARTH DWELLERS that we have looked at so many times before. Here in this verse we see that God is reaching out to them by sending an angel to proclaim the EVERLASTING GOSPEL to them. This, by the way will take place before many of them receive the Mark of the Beast.

Notice Revelation 14:6 again.

He will preach the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. These are the very group whom the Anti-Christ will rule over.

Revelation 13:7

⁷ *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Tis proclamation of the Gospel by this angel is the fulfillment of the Words of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:11-14

¹¹ *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

¹² *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

¹³ *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

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.*

Man has been given the Great Commission to go into ALL the world and preach the Gospel, but man has failed to reach ever tribe, tongue and nation. So, during the Tribulation Jesus will see that ALL will hear the Gospel and it will be carried to the ends of the earth by an angel sent from God.

Now, it is very important that we pause here for a moment and make a very important point. There are many churches that are teaching today that Jesus cannot return until the Gospel is preached to every person in the world. They use Matthew 24:14 to support this teaching.

But this is not talking about the Rapture. The context here is the SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE EARTH. The Rapture is the return of Jesus Christ in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The Rapture will happen before the Tribulation and the proclamation of the Gospel to all Nations will happen during the Tribulation before the return of Jesus to set up His Kingdom.

Application:

There is an application here that we must see. Even though the earth dwellers will continue to harden their hearts and refuse to repent as we see many times in the book of Revelation, God continues to reach out to them and offer them GRACE.

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ 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:

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I don't know what you have done in your life, but I do know that God loves you and He desires to see you saved. He gave the best He had, His Son, to pay the penalty for your sin and it is His desire that you repent and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Notice Revelation 14:7

I used to think this was the message which the angel preached but this is only part of the message. Let me show you why this is true.

Matthew 24:14

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.

This angel will preach the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM. The question is, "What is the Gospel of the Kingdom?"

It is the Gospel as we know it, Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the 3rd day, and added on to it is the good news that the King is coming. So, this angel is announcing that Jesus died for the sins of the world and was buried then He rose from the dead and here in the Tribulation He is about to return to set up His Earthly Kingdom.

The words contained in this verse are the desired response to the Gospel which the angel will proclaim.

1. **They are to fear God and give glory to Him.**

The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Up to this point they have no respect for God nor do they even believe in His existence. They are given over to human reasoning. They have their own ideas about the judgments that have fallen so far.

2. **They are warned that the devastation that is unfolding on the earth is the judgment of God.**
3. **They are to worship Him who is the Creator.**

Up to this point they have been worshipping idols.

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ 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:

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

These people will be evolutionists. They do not believe in a Creator. They believe the earth has evolved over millions of years. They deny the 6 literal days of Creation as taught in Genesis 1.

The offer to them is eternal life if they are willing to REPENT and put their faith in Jesus Christ. They are to believe He is their Savior and that He is returning to set up His Kingdom.

II. The Second Angel - Their Hope Destroyed

Notice Revelation 14:8

In the Tribulation the Great City of Babylon will be rebuilt. I believe the Babylon here stands for three different things:

1. It speaks of the city that will be built.
2. It speaks of the economic world's system of the Tribulation
3. It speaks of the false worship system of the Tribulation.

This is the center of the hope for those who are earth dwellers. Their hope is in the world and in the world's philosophical views.

This second angel then tells them that their hope is falling apart. The wording here from the angel means that the fall of Babylon is imminent. It is as good as gone. That which they have trusted in is going to crumble and fall completely apart.

This Babylon has made all Nations drunk with her wine of the wrath of her fornication. What does this mean? She has led all Nations into idolatry. We even see this today with the world's system. Many are drawn into idolatry today as they have bought into the philosophies of the world. The world teaches today that joy and contentment are found in wealth and possessions. People today live for what this world has to offer. They labor for more and more money. They labor to buy more and more of the stuff of this world. Their labors have filled up the majority of their time and so they have no time for God and many of them have no time for family. Their lives are all entangled in the stuff of this world. They spend their entire lives in labor for the possessions of the world and then they die.

Luke 12:15-21

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

²¹ So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Let me show you what Solomon said about the possessions of this world.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

¹⁸ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: **because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.**

¹⁹ **And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool?** yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

III. The Third Angel - Their Warning

Notice Revelation 14:9-11

The Earth Dwellers find themselves at a cross roads here. They have the option of turning to Christ or receiving the Mark of the Beast. If they take the Mark of the Beast their destiny will be sealed. They will never be able to go back. They will meet the WRATH of God completely undiluted. They will eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Application:

There is no sin today like the sin of taking the Mark of the Beast. No matter what a person has done today they can be forgiven. But there is a time when your destiny will be

sealed and that is when you die. When you die you will either open your eyes in hell or in heaven.

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you will open your eyes in hell.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

We are all sinners and our sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

God requires all sin to be paid for.

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

God requires the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin.

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Jesus died and shed His blood to pay for your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Your responsibility is to repent and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

If you are not saved you are at a cross roads today.