

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 13

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Revelation we looked at the announcements by three different angels that were found in Revelation 14:6-11. The three announcements were directed to the unsaved of the Tribulation period. We saw three points from these three angels.

I. Their Offer

Notice Revelation 14:6-7

The messages were the LAST CALL OF GRACE to a lost and a dying world. Jesus had promised that the Gospel of the Kingdom would be proclaimed to every kindred, tribe and nation.

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 was the promise and the angel in Revelation 14:6-7 is called upon to fulfill that very promise.

II. Their Hope Destroyed

Notice Revelation 14:8

Babylon here takes in the CITY, the COMMERCIAL SYSTEM, and the FASLE WORSHI SYSTEM OF THE TRIBULATION. This is where the hope of the unsaved is resting during the Tribulation. But it will all fall apart.

III. Their Warning

Notice Revelation 14:9-11

These people will be at a crossroads here. They will need to choose between the Anti-Christ and Jesus Christ. Those who take the MARK of the Beast will seal their destiny and they will perish.

Now for those who turn to Jesus Christ and refuse the Mark of the Beast life will be very difficult. They will struggle to survive and many of them will not survive. Let me show you something that is said concerning those who die for their faith by not receiving the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 20:4

*⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: **and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***

We see more information in Revelation 7.

Revelation 7:14-17

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

*¹⁶ **They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.***

¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This now brings us to where we stopped last week.

I. The Encouragement of the Saints

The Bible tells us that God is faithful to provide the comfort which His people need.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

⁵ *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

Notice Revelation 14:12

The word "PATIENCE" means ENDURANCE. That which enables the righteous to endure the persecutions of the Tribulation is FOURFOLD

1. **Knowing the sovereign control of God over the affairs of their lives.**

Revelation 13:9-10

⁹ *If any man have an ear, let him hear.*

¹⁰ *He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

This is a very interesting thought which we find in Revelation 14:12. It seems that those who chose to follow Jesus Christ in the Tribulation will seem to have a good understanding that in all that is unfolding God is in control. They will understand that whatever comes upon their lives is permitted by God for a purpose and they willingly accept whatever comes. Let me show you where they can gain this knowledge.

Malachi 3:2-3

² *But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:*

³ *And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.*

Application:

What a comfort it is for us as we go through the furnaces of this life. God is in control and it is He who controls the temperature.

Listen to the words of Meyer:

"What a comfort it is that He surrenders this work to no other hands than his own. He may give his angels charge concerning us when we are in danger; but he keeps our purification beneath his special superintendence."

He continues with the thought;

"If you are just now in the fire, dear soul, be of good cheer - it shows at least that you are silver, and are capable of performing more acceptable service in God's holy Temple."

2. Knowing that God will avenge their suffering as He deals with the wicked of the Tribulation.

Notice Revelation 14:6-7, 10-11

These saints will understand that as dreadful and terrible as their persecution is it cannot compare with the doom of those who receive the Mark of the Beast.

Application:

This is a great Truth for you and me to lay hold of.

Churchill once said,

"You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks."

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let me show you the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:38-42

³⁸ Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

⁴⁰ And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

⁴¹ And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

⁴² Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Notice Revelation 14:13

3. **Those who die for their faith receive a special blessing and rest.**

This is in complete agreement with what Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 5:8.

2 Corinthians 5:8

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

I point this out because of a conversation that I had with a man this past week. He has found himself at the bottom in life and so as we sat down together it opened a door for me to share the Gospel with him. When I ask where he was going when he died he said, "Purgatory". Now, there is no such place as purgatory" but let me explain what many believe concerning the place.

"In Roman Catholic theology, is an intermediate state after physical death in which some of those ultimately destined for heaven must first "undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," holding that "certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come." And that entrance into Heaven requires the "remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven," for which indulgences may be given which remove "either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin," such as an "unhealthy attachment" to sin. Only those who die in the state of grace but have not yet fulfilled the temporal punishment due to their sin can be in purgatory, and therefore, no one in purgatory will remain forever in that state nor go to hell."

The Bible teaches of no such place known as PURGATORY. When we die we are either in heaven or hell.

Luke 16:19-23

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*

²³ *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

When we are saved by resting our faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work we are COMPLETELY forgiven.

Romans 3:21-24

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

²⁴ *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

4. **Their works are not forgotten by God.**

Let me first of all make it clear that these people will not be saved by their works and neither are we.

Titus 3:5-7

⁵ *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

⁶ *Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

⁷ *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

The point is clear from the Scriptures that they will not be saved by works.

The works spoken of here refer to their service during the Tribulation after they are saved. Every work they do for God will be remembered by Him and they will be rewarded for their works.

Application:

As we go through this life we too as believers are to be serving God.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

¹⁰ **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

As we serve Him there are many works that are not seen by others and sometimes we wonder if it really matters.

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Hebrews 6:10

¹⁰ *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Conclusion:

If you are going through the furnace, then here are 4 points of encouragement.

1. God is in control of what you are facing.
2. God will avenge those who bring grief into your life.
3. If the situation leads to death you will find yourself immediately in eternal rest.
4. God knows your service for Him even when no one cares or sees.