

Last time, in the first half of Rev 14, we saw the 144,000 standing with the Lord Jesus Christ on the Heavenly Mt. Zion; they sang a new song which *no other men* will be able to sing but, perhaps, they will be joined by a Heavenly choir of angels. We're told that these 144,000 are the 'first fruits' unto God and to the Lamb. It sounds like these will be the first ones martyred during the 7 year Tribulation but we know, from elsewhere in The Revelation, that huge numbers will come to faith and be martyred during this soon coming time: *'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands... these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'* Rev 7

Then we 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,'*

Then: *'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.'*

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, <sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God,.. and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.'*

**Rev 14:13:** Then: *'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.'*

*Blessed are all those who will 'die in the Lord;'* these who will die, as believers, during the Tribulation are said to be: 'In the Lord.' In 'Jesus' High Priestly Prayer' for His disciples, and us, He prayed: *'Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; <sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. <sup>26</sup> And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.'* John 17:20

Jesus also said: *'All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.'* John 6:37

Paul wrote: *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: <sup>4</sup> 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: <sup>5</sup> Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,'* Eph 1:3

God chose His Elect before the foundation of the World; He chose every person who He would draw to Himself by faith in His Word, from the time of Adam throughout all time. Every one of His Elect will have come to Him the same way: through faith in His Word, His promises, His Lamb of God. These, during the Tribulation are just as elect, just as saved and just as kept save until death or the Lord's coming as every other elect one from every other dispensation of His Grace poured out.

Now we will see His greatest harvests of all time; actually, we will see **two separate harvests**: one, a fulfillment of the blessing and the other, a fulfillment of the curse

This angel proclaimed: 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth...'

The believers from the Tribulation are 'in Christ Jesus.' '... *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. <sup>20</sup> And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. <sup>21</sup> And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled <sup>22</sup> In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight...*' Col 1:15

We know that the Word teaches us that we, the True Church, are the body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. These Tribulation Saints didn't miss out on being part of the Bride of Jesus Christ, they were simply born to a different time and a different plan; the same is true of Old Testament Saints. God has dealt with Man in different manners during different times: (different dispensations of His Grace) but it has always been, from the Garden of Eden onward, His marvelous Grace.

All things, all people, all Creation will, finally, be reconciled back to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't know how but we know surely.

To have been of God's Elect will prove to have been the greatest, most unimaginably wondrous blessing possible.

And this all ties in with the second part of that verse: '*...and their works do follow them.*'

That's the secret which many Christians choose to miss because it is not a secret at all. God's Word is replete with admonitions to walk and live in a manner worthy of the Lord: '*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*' Col 3:1 ...because, '*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*' 1 Cor 2:9

Their works will follow them into Eternity; the same is true for us; our works follow us into forever! The decisions we make now, on a daily basis, during this tiny infinitesimal slice of time while we inhabit these weak and sin-prone bodies, will determine the unimaginable, eternal rewards we will enjoy forever!

And, speaking of our works following us... this is true for both the Elect and the non-elect alike... now we will see two great end-time harvests: two different groups whose works will follow them into Eternity: one unto eternal life and the other unto eternal damnation.

**Verse 14:** '*And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*'

Here we see someone sitting upon a cloud; this is the Lord Jesus Christ: '*... one like unto the Son of Man...*' **Son of Man** is one of the titles of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that this person is a worker of miracles because we see Him sitting on a cloud which is just as miraculous as when He walked upon the water of the Sea of Galilee. A cloud is water vapor, even less able to carry the weight of a person than is water; at least, on water, many things will float; in fact, anything will float on water as long as its weight, by volume, is less than that of water.

Also, He is wearing a crown; angels don't wear crowns; in fact, the only other ones who will wear crowns are humans who have faithfully earned the eternal rewards of crowns during their faithful service unto God while they had been, for a short time, living within their Earthly bodies.

In His hand, He has a sharp sickle; He is about to harvest the greatest number of souls for Salvation since time began:

**Verse 15:** *'And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.'*

For the past 50 years, false teachers have been claiming that a great 'end-time harvest' is right around the corner; this is the year... the greatest harvest ever... but that great end-times harvest never did materialize; every false revival was going to trigger it. The strange thing was that the many so-called great harvests always seemed to have begun by human effort but not the human effort of prayer, fasting and evangelism.

Now... into the second half of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, God's timing for harvest is ready and the Lord Jesus Christ is now ready to harvest... the previous great harvests were: the Rapture and the 144,000 along with most of those who were led to faith through their evangelism. Now, at the latter part of the Tribulation, it's God's time for the last great harvest: reaping the Earth:

**Verse 16:** *'And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.'*

The Lord Jesus Christ will harvest only when the time is right. Notice what's next... someone else has a sharp sickle:

**Verse 17:** *'And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.'*

These two are not the same harvest... not at all! These are two very different harvests: two very different groups who have very different destinations. When the Lord Jesus Christ harvests, here, it is called the *'harvest of the Earth.'*

Jesus said, 'I will build My Church...' The true harvest of souls unto Salvation is always the work of the Holy Spirit... it is always God's work; He uses us in this great work but it is God's work.

Notice what the angel says of the second harvest: *'... gather the clusters of the **vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.'***

The vine of the earth; it's almost as if it's saying that the non-elect are 'children of the earth;' they grow out from the vine of the earth.

We are in the Earth but not of the Earth; the lost are in the Earth and of the Earth; they love the Earth; they love the World. We, on the other hand, are commanded to: 'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.' 1 John 2:15

Jesus prayed, for us: *'They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.'* John 17:16 and... *'If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.'* John 15:18

*'... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.'* James 4:4

To us, the true children of God, the Lord Jesus said, *'I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman... I **am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.... **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own:** but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you...'* John 15

Jesus is the true vine; when He harvests the Earth, He is harvesting the fruit from us, His own branches who are growing out from Him, the True Vine. The other harvest is gathered from the *'clusters of the **vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.'***

Jesus is the Vine of Heaven; Satan, with his kingdom of darkness, is the vine of the earth; Jesus said that they, those growing from the 'vine of the Earth,' are children of the devil: *'Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because*

*there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.'*  
John 8:44

No wonder that today's children of the devil worship the earth and seek to protect it above all.

These are two very different and distinct harvests and the destinations of the two different groups are also very different. Of us, Paul said: 'We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.' 2Cor 5:8 On the other hand, of those harvested from the vine of the earth:

**Verse 19:** *'And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. <sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.'*...

These are the same ones the flying angel warned back in verse 10, those who take the Mark of the Beast: *'The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.'*

This, then, is the horrible picture of Armageddon: death by the multiplied millions and so much blood that it runs four to five feet deep for a distance of 200 miles; that is an unimaginable amount of death, destruction and blood.

A furlong is 1/8 of a mile... x 1600 equals 200 miles and this is not an exaggeration; John is being shown the truth of what will come to pass just a few short years from now.