

62. The Book of Revelation—14:6-10

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(11-17-21)

Find this weeks' Study Audio & Video [Here](#)

As we said last week, Chapter 14 is a little different and therefore difficult to make sense out of leaving many commentators somewhat baffled as what to make of it. It only begins to make sense when you realize that it seems to be a “*preview of coming attractions*” or a “*table of contents*” highlighting the things that will take place in Chapters 15-19.

If you don't understand that and keep it in mind, Chapter 14 is going to puzzle you in that you're going to read things that haven't happened yet—as though they had already taken place.

Revelation 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--

The Antichrist will come preaching ‘a gospel’—but *it won't be* the true ‘**everlasting gospel**’ of Jesus Christ—the Gospel of Grace! It will be a man-centered, humanistic gospel for that *time* in human history—not the Gospel of *eternity*. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

The “**everlasting gospel**” is the true gospel for all eternity.

It is the same gospel that was first introduced in Genesis 3:15—

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

The same gospel that was preached to Abraham—

Galatians 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

The same gospel that was preached by Jesus (Luke 24:46-47) and the apostles—which Paul succinctly presents in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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,

Now, it is the same gospel that this angel sent from God preaches one last time before God brings His final and most horrific judgments upon the people of earth. It is the *Good News* of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. There is only one gospel.

There is only one true Gospel.

The angel will no doubt declare that people are sinners facing eternal judgment in hell, but that God has provided atonement for their sins through the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ—and that salvation is a gift (free) that anyone can receive through their faith in Jesus.

The preaching of this angel will reach everyone on planet earth—including and especially those who, for whatever reason, have not heard the true gospel preached to them up until that point.

Along with the message of the gospel, will be an urgent warning and plea—that it is not too late, there is still time to repent before God’s judgment resumes—but that they must make a decision immediately before it *is* too late!

Revelation 14:7 (NKJV)

⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

This seems to be calling the earth-dwellers into the true worship of the Creator and away from the false worship of the *creation* (including self-worship)—

Romans 1:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

So, this angel preaches the gospel to the world—but in the context of coming judgment (the climactic judgments of Chapter 16). The ‘good news’ is really only understood to be ‘*good news*’ when it is seen in the context of the ‘*bad news*’—coming judgment.

Today almost all evangelism is based on the love of God, and we hear very little based on coming judgment.

- ❖ Do you realize that nowhere in the Book of Acts does anyone, apostle or otherwise, ever use the love of God as a basis in presenting the gospel?

Now, that doesn’t mean we can’t never talk about God’s love when we share the gospel—but there must be a balance between the love of God for sinners and the wrath of God poured out against sin!

Without any talk of coming judgment, the gospel is reduced from an “emergency alert siren” to ‘happy talk’. The gospel isn’t a message that is designed to make people feel good or happy about themselves—it’s a brutal indictment of our sinful lives and how only by Jesus dying for us on the cross is there hope of escaping the fires of hell.

In that regard, the gospel is a *warning* for people to flee judgment by running into Christ for safety—kind of like a tornado siren today (no one feels comforted or happy when a tornado siren begins to sound!)

Too many pastors and preachers have stopped urging people to receive Jesus as the One Who will save them from hell. Instead, they have turned Him into a sanctified ‘butler’ whose job it is to save them from all the discomforts of life.

As one pastor put it—

“For these folks, prayer then becomes ‘ringing a little bell’, calling for ‘Butler Jesus’ to bring them up another pillow”.

John the Baptist and Jesus Himself were both ‘*hell-fire and damnation preachers.*’ The whole point in preaching the Gospel is to tell people that they are lost and hell-bound—but God loves them and gave His Son to save them!

Nowadays, many are left to wonder—“*save me from what?!*”

Unfortunately, the answer from many pulpits today seems to be—save them from poverty, depression and low self-esteem?! → NO! Save them from eternal judgment in hell!

The preaching of coming judgment **used to** dominate pulpits all across this nation and was used by God to bring about periods of revival and the Great Awakenings.

Men like Jonathan Edwards in his sermon, “*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*” said,

“Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering, and there are innumerable places in this covering so weak that they will not bear their weight, and these places are not seen. The wrath of God burns against them...”

Can you imagine a message like this being preached in this day of political correctness where the goal of so many preachers is to keep things positive, upbeat and non-confrontational?

- *How does a person escape the judgment of hell?*
- **By repenting and believing the gospel.**

The everlasting true gospel of Jesus Christ—the very gospel this angel will preach to the people of the world.

Now, even though many will get saved in the last half of the Tribulation Period (Revelation 7:9, 14), yet for the most part by this time many hearts of the earth-dwellers will have become so hard that they will have already by this time passed the “*spiritual point of no return.*”

One pastor and commentator had this to say—

“After all, by this point people will have experienced the devastating seal and trumpet judgments. The earth will have been devastated by worldwide wars, famines, and earthquakes, resulting in the destruction of the environment, witnessed terrifying signs in the heavens, and been attacked by demon hordes. All of that will result in death on a scale unprecedented in human history. Yet, though they will eventually realize that those disasters are God’s judgments (6:15–17), people will defiantly refuse to repent (9:20–21). But God, in grace and mercy, will again call sinners to repentance through the preaching of this angel.”

Revelation 14:8 (NKJV)

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

John saw **another angel, a second one**, who **followed** the first angel—but unlike the first one, this angel does not preach the good news of the gospel—but rather pronounces the bad news of judgment.

Sadly, this implies that the first angel's message was largely rejected.

It is almost as if the second angel interrupts the first angel because no one is responding—the hearts of the 'earth-dwellers' have become so hard by this point that the message of salvation isn't penetrating their hearts but "*laying on the surface*" ('wayside soil') until the devil immediately comes and snatches it away.

By this time the earth-dwellers are '*all in*' for the Antichrist and the Dragon in their worship, commitment, and loyalty to them.

In that regard, this seems to be nothing more than a '**formality**' so that they can't say on the Day of Judgment that they were never given a chance to receive Jesus and be saved—here is their chance which they make no use of.

This proclamation—"*Babylon is fallen is fallen*" anticipates the events of Revelation 18—we will study Babylon in detail when we get to Chapter 18. But in preparation for us studying Chapter 18 let me just say that "**Babylon**" is God's name for the world system of "*the Beast*" both religious and political—by which he (Antichrist) rules the world.

Of course, the roots of Babylon go all the way back to Nimrod and the Tower of Babel (*'a tower whose top may reach unto heaven'-KJV*) it was actually a ziggurat ('a tower that reached up to the heavens') that was built by Nimrod so that the people of the world could worship the sun, moon and stars as gods. (Genesis 11)

Nimrod (called 'a mighty hunter' in Genesis 10:9) was the first cult leader on the earth leading the world into the first organized false religious system. Many believe Genesis 10:9 is saying that Nimrod was a mighty hunter of animals—a mighty game hunter. Yet is that really what the Holy Spirit is telling us about this man? I'll give you a little hint—*his name means 'rebel'*—a mighty rebel that wasn't famous for hunting animals but for hunting something far more important and valuable.

He became the forerunner and type of another rebel—the ultimate rebel second only to Satan himself—the Antichrist. Years later Babel became Babylon—that for a time became the economic and religious center of the world (first half of the Book of Daniel).

In Chapters 17 and 18 God judges the religious and commercial centers of the world under the Antichrist calling them both "Babylon" (we'll see this when we come to Revelation 17 & 18).

The repetition, "**Babylon is fallen, is fallen**" implies *certainty* and that it is to happen soon—

Genesis 41:32 (NKJV)

³² And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

In fact, in the Greek it's, "*Babylon fell, fell*" i.e., "*even though it hasn't happened yet—Babylon is history!*"

Revelation 14:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of

God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Verse 9 reminds us that there is a definite connection between worshipping *the beast and his image* and receiving *his mark on his forehead or on his right hand*... The fact that the angel makes this announcement to the people of this world tells us that no one will be "tricked" into receiving the Antichrist's mark.

No one will take it casually without knowing the consequences—the connection between worshipping the beast and taking his mark will be clear and the consequences unmistakable. It's interesting that in fact, the Greek text reads, "*If any man continues to worship the beast,*" suggesting that—there is still an opportunity for repentance and salvation.

But once they take his 'mark'—there will be no further opportunity for them to repent and be saved—they are doomed to spend eternity in hell.

- It's one thing to be *enamored* with the Antichrist—even to the point of offering him some *superficial* worship (verb).
- It's another thing to decide to take his mark and become one of his full-fledged, totally committed worshippers (noun)!

The first speaks of **what you do**—the second speaks of **what you are**.

It's the difference between coming to church and offering God 'worship'—and then being a true worshipper. (John 4:23)

But getting back to Revelation 14:9-11—as we said a couple of weeks ago—why can someone who commits murder or even mass murder come to Jesus, receive Him as their Savior and be saved—whereas the Bible says if anyone takes the Antichrist's mark they can never be saved?
Is taking a number a worse sin than committing murder?

Well, many believe (like me) that this could be some kind of electronic linking together with the Antichrist that would make a person "one with him" (a part of his collective consciousness).

Anyone who willingly received his 'mark' (chip?) would 'link with the Antichrist and that would sever their free will making it impossible for them to ever repent and receive Jesus as their Savior once they take this mark. Again, please understand, no one will be deceived into taking the mark of the beast—they will all know exactly what they are doing—and the consequences will be clear and unmistakable!

Here are the consequences—

Revelation 14:10a (NKJV)

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation...

Those who worship the Antichrist will be forced to drink "**the wine of the wrath of God...full strength...**"

In those days they drank 'diluted' wine (one part wine, three parts water) because the water was often polluted with micro-organisms that would cause gastrointestinal diseases—and so they diluted it with a small amount of alcohol to kill the bacteria.

Of course, they did have full-strength, undiluted wine for when they wanted to celebrate at a wedding or simply when they wanted to get drunk (Gentiles).

Skeptics and atheists often like to point out that Jesus drank wine—which in their minds means that Jesus got drunk! However, these people don't understand that the Jewish people abhorred drunkenness and considered it a sin to get drunk—Jesus never sinned by getting drunk!

The 'cup' that the angel is referring to—the 'cup of God's wrath [indignation]'— is His judgment!

The fact that the angel commands that the cup of God's judgment be filled with "full strength wine"—is a reference to wine that hasn't been diluted with water—but also that hasn't been *'filtered'* or *'strained'*. Wine that was unfiltered still had the 'dregs' in it (sediments, seeds, grape skins etc.)—which meant it was even stronger but also *bitter!*

Psalm 75:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For in the hand of the LORD *there is a cup*, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain *and* drink down.

Isaiah 51:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, *And drained it out.*

Jeremiah 25:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it.

To drink the cup of the wrath of God full strength means that the unbelieving people of the world are about to experience the most severe judgments of the Great Tribulation Period (Chapter 16)—in other words judgments that are 'undiluted, unfiltered' (without any mercy).

No more will any prophet of God be able to pray—"In wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2)—the day of mercy will have come to an end by this time.

Of course, the ultimate interpretation of this is to understand this judgment as beginning on earth—but continuing for all eternity in the Lake of Fire (Hell) in the 'outer darkness.' What's in view is 'full strength' eternal judgment.

The full fury of God's wrath, so long restrained, will finally be unleashed on the inhabitants of the world full strength. God's wrath is not an outburst of emotion where God "loses it and flies off the handle in an uncontrolled rage"—God is NOT a hothead!

The Greek word means—"a slow burning anger that has been building (like the pressure of a volcano)."

In other words, God's anger toward man's rebellion and sin that has been building over the centuries—but in time past has been restrained by the love, mercy and grace of Almighty God.

But now (Revelation 16) it will finally reach eruption and will explode upon a godless and wicked world.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).