

The Book of Revelation
Revelation 14:6-13(NIV)
“Last Call”

Introduction

6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him Who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

8 A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, 10 they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” 12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep His commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

After John is shown the vision of the victorious 144,000 standing with Christ on Mt. Zion, his attention is drawn to the skies to look upon three separate angelic messengers. Each messenger has a specific message for the people remaining on planet earth. The angels are flying in mid-heaven (*mesouranema* in the Greek), a term meaning the place where the sun appears at high noon. In other words, the angels will broadcast their messages so that all the world may see and hear.

Since **Revelation Chapters 13-14** are given as a snapshot for an earthly view of the entire tribulation period, I personally believe that these three angelic messengers correspond with the three angels mentioned elsewhere in the book of *Revelation*. I believe the first angel is the same as the “eagle” in **Chapter 8:13**. The second angel is the same as the one mentioned in **Chapter 18:1-2**, and the third angel corresponds with the angel of **Chapter 19:17**. However, this is only my opinion, but there are many similarities in the messages given by each of these sets of three angels. The first angel brings *Declaration*. The second angel brings a notice of *Destruction*. The third angel brings a message of the *Damned*, and afterward we see the *Blessed Dead*.

The Declaration

There is a saying that is repeated in every bar and pub in the country as each reaches their respective “closing time” (not that I am recommending patronage of any such establishment). Just before closing, the bartender will loudly proclaim “Last call.” We are now living in an age where men neither fear God or even acknowledge Him. In these final days, God will send a warning to anyone who will listen, that the time is running out for the patrons to partake of their beverage of choice, as it were, for closing time is fast approaching. They may choose the cup of Christ’s communion or drink the wine of God’s fury.

This first angel that we see in **Chapter 14** is giving the last call to repentance. **“Fear God and give Him glory.”** he cries. If he truly is the eagle in **Chapter 8**, as I believe him to be, he will also warn that as bad as the sufferings have been up to that point, they are about to get much worse.

It is interesting to note that the gospel declaration given by this angel is about the God of Creation rather than a message of the cross. The fact is, there is no possibility for mankind to acknowledge the need for salvation, if they won't even concede that there is a God, Who created the heavens and the earth. In this day and age, we see more and more so called “experts”, who claim the earth is simply a cosmic accident. They actually believe that our very existence is the result of mere happenstance! No one will be able to stand before God and accuse Him of not giving mankind sufficient evidence of His existence. The book of *Romans* clearly states that the the universe itself makes the case for its Creator.

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. **Romans 1:20**

Creation proclaims the glory of God! (*Psalm 19*). This is why *Psalm 14:1* declares **“The fool says in his heart, there is no God”**, and yet, in these last days in which we live, all academia is screaming at the top of their lungs, “Evolution is Science. Creation is myth.” How incredibly accurate is the Apostle Paul’s statement in *Romans 1:22*, **“professing themselves to be wise, they become fools”**. Our most celebrated scholars can look on creation and declare it to be a random act of chance! With this utter foolishness as a backdrop, is it any wonder the angelic messenger cries out for mankind to worship the Creator, God (**vs. 7**)? It is the last call to a fallen world intoxicated by its own wickedness. Repent or face the coming wrath.

The Destruction

The second angel announces the destruction of Babylon. Babylon is first mentioned in *Genesis 10:10*. The city was established by the wicked King Nimrod (pronounced *Nim-rod*), who was a mighty man (*Genesis 10:8-12*). Nimrod was a descendant of Ham, Noah’s rebellious son (*Genesis 9:22-29*). It is Nimrod who began construction of the ill-fated tower of Babel (*Baw-vel* in Hebrew means confusion). The intent behind the great tower was to ascend humanity to the heavens, and therefore, place man on equal footing with God. It is also interesting to note that Nimrod used pitch to seal the bricks, making the tower water-proof (*Genesis 11:2*). One could suppose his intention was to protect himself from another “great flood”. Nimrod preferred to live by his own might, rather than trust in the power of the Almighty.

As a result of his wicked pride, God confused the language of the people and construction came to a halt (*Genesis 11:5-9*). Babylon (which is located in modern Iraq) has subsequently become the metaphorical name for any system of man intended to rebel against the Sovereignty of God. We are now living in a Babylon world. Man wants to be in charge of his own destiny. Nations build towers and monuments honoring their human accomplishments, while fewer and fewer people bow down in humility to acknowledge the mighty works of God. The empire that will be established by the anti-Christ will be the epitome of this God-defying Babylonian system, and just like the tower of Babel and the ancient city of Babylon itself, this empire will also be brought down to utter destruction.

Not only will the anti-christ expand upon the godlessness of society that we are now seeing to the infinite degree, but he will also institute a false-religion in order to pacify the masses. This religion will be based upon the worship of the devil himself, through the worship of the beast. In Scripture, idolatry is often equated with harlotry. For you see, to worship anyone or anything except the One True God is to commit adultery against Him. Only He is worthy to be worshipped. The Babylon of the last days, the empire of the beast himself, will usher in a period of unprecedented idolatry. This is why the angel proclaims that Babylon the Great has “made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” (**vs.8**).

The Damned

The third angel pronounces judgment on those who received the mark of the beast and willingly participate in the final Babylonian Kingdom. The angel doesn't mince words in his proclamation. Any who have the mark will drink of the wine of God's fury (**vs. 10**). The wine of God's fury is described as full strength (**vs. 10**), which refers back to an old practice of diluting wine with water in order to reduce its potency. This "wine" will be "full strength", signifying that at this time God will hold nothing back in his wrath against sin. The choice is simple, worship the beast and die, or worship Christ and have life everlasting. Sadly, many will ignore these final warnings, just as they have ignored the warnings of the 144,000, the two witnesses, and every verse of Scripture that has ever been shared.

The era in which we now live has rightfully been called The Age of Grace. For the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His atoning death on the cross, there is still hope for the redemption of all mankind. Upon receiving, and subsequently rejecting, the messages given by these final three messengers from heaven, all hope is now lost. The Age of Grace will give way to the Day of Judgment.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

(Galatians 6:7-8)

It is also worth noting that the damned will suffer, not only forever (**vs. 11**), but they will also be judged in the presence of the Lamb. They will stand and look upon the holy face of Jesus, the One they mocked, blasphemed, and ridiculed. All the so-called comedians, who scorn and mock the people of God, will bow before the Lamb of God and be sentenced to eternal damnation. Laughter will turn to wailing as they plead for mercy that is no longer available. Their day of grace has been squandered. **The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)**, and here, at the end, God's grace is out of reach. The horrible day of reckoning that so many men of God have preached about has come. Death and hell will not be denied. Judgment is finally served upon the wicked.

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of The Living God."

Hebrews 10:31

The Blessed Dead

On the eve of His death, the Lord Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples. After supper, **Matthew 26:30** simply states, **"When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mt. of Olives."** Not being Jewish, most readers have no idea about the songs that are sung during a Passover meal, but Jewish tradition dictates the Passover ritual include the same six songs that are always sung during Passover. The songs are found in **Psalm 113-118** and are known as The Egyptian Hallel, because Passover is a celebration of the Jews being set free from Egyptian bondage. One of the songs our Lord sang before going to the cross to free us from the bondage of sin (for He is our Passover Lamb) was **Psalm 116**. **Psalm 116:15** says, **"precious in the sight of the Lord is death of His saints"**. I have heard this preached many times at funerals, but knowing that Jesus sang these words before He died puts the verse in a whole new context for me. The death of our Lord is precious. He laid down His life willingly, to obey His Father, and save any who would believe in Him.

It is in this context that we should view the words of God in **Revelation 14:13**, **"Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord from now on."** It seems strange to us that someone who loses their life would be called blessed. We look at death as a tragedy, a defeat, and a terrible loss. When one of our loved ones die, we say things like, "she lost her fight with cancer" or "what a terrible loss his passing was to our church", etc., but those who refuse the mark of the beast during the tribulation period will be victors in the eyes of God. He will call them blessed. The Greek word for blessed (*makarios*) means bliss, joy, and fulfillment. For these precious saints of God, life and death has meaning. They persevered and overcame, just as our Lord Jesus did. They are more like Christ than all other Believers.

It is also important to understand why these chosen ones of God were *able* to persevere. It is because of a powerful doctrine commonly called "eternal security" or "the perseverance of the saints." The reality is simply this; whom The LORD calls, The LORD keeps. *If we are in Christ, then we are guaranteed to persevere, because it is not us who hold onto Christ, but rather, it is Christ who holds on to us!*

And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. **John 6:39**

And that my friends is the preservation of the saints; Jesus keeping us safe until the end.

Even the Holy Spirit cannot contain His joy as he proclaims the AMEN in **verse 13: "Yes, says The Spirit, they will rest from their labor for their deeds will follow them."** We must never forget, as children of God, that our deeds will follow us as well. I want the Lord to be pleased with all that follows my life. Whenever and however my life comes to an end, I want to hear the Spirit say "blessed". How about you? In Hebrew the word blessed (*Esher*), used many times throughout *The Old Testament* (ie. **Psalm 1:1**), carries with it the idea of taking a chord and laying it out in a perfectly straight line. When **Psalm 1:1** says, "**blessed is he**", it is referring to the joy that comes from knowing that you are walking "in line" with God's will for your life. True inner joy can be found in knowing you are living God's way. *The world may despise you for it, but you will have inner peace and joy.* Only a child of God can truly understand this kind of blessed life.

Jesus gave His life so that we could know what it means to be right with God and to be blessed. What a precious death was His!

Truth!!!