The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CLA - 2016

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<><<<<< Chapters 14 >>>>>>> Another Perspective of God's Point of View

<><<<<< Chapters 6-11, and 15-21 >>>>>>
 70th Week from God's Point of View

• 6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." 8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality." 9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will 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 goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

- 6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;
- Throughout John's prophecy we have seen angel, after angel, after angel deployed in one fashion or another to accomplish God's purposes. (from chapter 6 22 the only chapter without God's angels is #13)
- Here we find another angel and this one is a gospel preaching angel – which just might answer all of those tough "what if one were born on a remote island and never heard the gospel" questions.

 The fact that he is said to be flying in Mid-Heaven simply means that he is flying in the sky as we know it. (he will be in the highest, most visible part of the sky during a large portion of Daniel's 70th week)

• This angel is a preaching, or evangelizing angel and please notice what he is preaching. He is preaching the "eternal gospel".

• There is only one gospel, it is eternal, and appropriate for every age there has ever been, or ever will be.

 We should also notice the scope of his preaching as well – "to every nation and tribe and tongue and people".

• The message of salvation is intended for all people – "red, and yellow, black and white they are precious in His sight" according to one of the songs children sing.

 Our country is going through a period of racial strife and division, and Sunday's mornings in the church are also fairly well divided up into pockets of sameness. (perhaps because the church has not affected the culture as we might hope)

 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

 The preaching angel that God sends to the world has some urgency in his message of salvation that you would think would be an easy "sell" given the conditions of chaos on the Earth.

 The truth be told, every moment of our lives could easily qualify as "the hour of His judgment has come", or at least could come for us at any time. (Hebrews 9:27)

• The message is rather straightforward, but powerful – fear God, give Him glory, and worship Him.

 Remember, it will be during this same 7 year period that Antichrist will be demanding the same of the human race – reverence, glory, and worship.

• The preaching angel in the sky is countering that message with fear God, give God glory, and worship Him – the message from above may get you killed, but it will save your soul.

•So think about it, why is this angel traversing the sky preaching the gospel to a world of people who hate God, have largely despised Christians, and are likely to be following AntiChrist?

- This is so, so in keeping with the character and nature of God. The scriptures tell us that God is love. (1st John 4:8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.)
- So think about it, why is this angel traversing the sky preaching the gospel to a world of people who hate God, have largely despised Christians, and are likely to be following AntiChrist?
- Eph 2:4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

 And lest we become a little too incredulous about His mercy to the sinners of the tribulation period, let me remind us all that before we came to Christ we were no better.

 Eph 2:1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

 Before our eyes were opened to our need of Christ, we were spiritually dead, and incapable of responding to God. We chased after sin and the things of the world and were in no better condition than those unsaved in the tribulation.

 Before we leave verse #7 we should also comment on this phrase, "worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters".

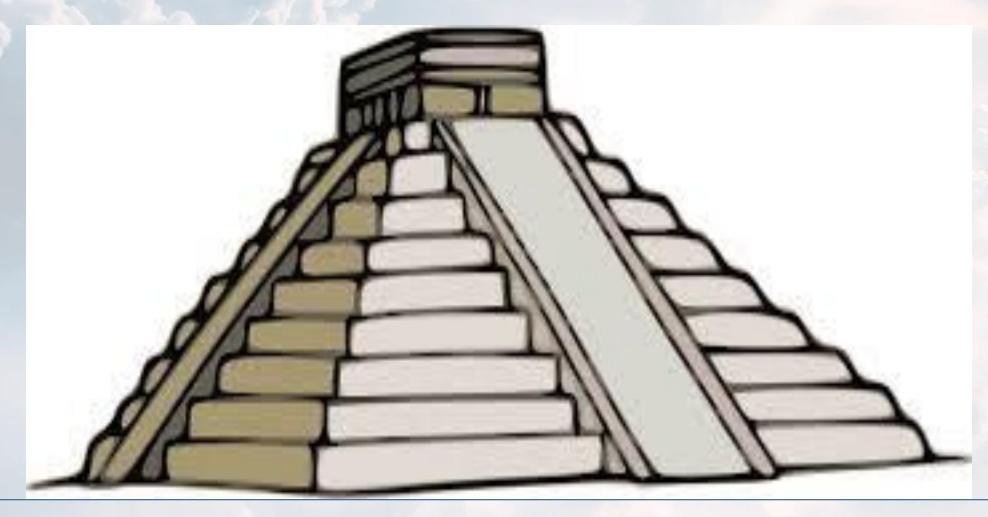
• Isn't this what is at the heart of the running battle between God and Satan? The question of "who is God?".

 This is what is behind most, if not all of the battles we see around us – abortion, evolution, and all moral issues – isn't what the Creator intended, what should rule in all of these matters?

 8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

• First, Babylon is the name given to the end-time world wide Satanic government including the one-world church.

- The original Babylon was founded by Nimrod and it is the place where the tower of Babel was built as an idolatrous monument
 - it was never intended to be a stairway to Heaven. (men were not that clueless)



The Tower of Babel was probably a Ziggurat.

 The purpose of the tower of Babel was to honor a false god and it united the world around a false religion.

 When God destroyed it and scattered the people across the face of the earth, they took their false notions of God with them and spread their message of paganism.

 God also introduced new languages when He destroyed the tower, probably to dilute their unity and influence because they were united around a false god.

 Idolatry started with the known world united around a false god in Babel, and it will be brought to an end with the world once again united around a false god, Antichrist.

 Notice that this second angel says, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

 When the angel says "fallen, fallen" that is a prophecy that the coming one world system and church will not endure, but will be brought down and destroyed.

 Babylon is also characterized as a woman, and in chapter 17 the language is even more direct – she is a "great harlot", or a "great whore" depending on your translation.

 So why that reference – because while Babylon is not a human woman, she is described as one who is unfaithful on a spiritual level.

 Now when the angel pronounces the "fallen, fallen", Babylon has not yet been destroyed, but her doom is so certain that the angel does what God does when he decrees something – He speaks of it as good as done, because of His decree.

• 9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

 Here is the third angel that John sees – the first one was preaching the eternal gospel, the second one was pronouncing judgment on the system, and the third is warning of judgment on the individuals who worship the beast.

- And the warning stated is not at all subtle if you worship the beast and receive his mark, you are damned.
- Having rejected God's repeated and clear calls to repentance, you will drink of the wine of God's wrath mixed full strength. In this case "mixed full strength" means it is mixed with certain spices to make it even more potent.
- Psalm 75:8 For the Lord holds a cup in his hand that is full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours out the wine in judgment, and all the wicked must drink it, draining it to the dregs.

 This punishment also involves the "cup of God's anger" that contains His wrath against sin.

 Matt 26:39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

 The cup of God's wrath was what Jesus was facing for us – and we learn here in Rev 14 that the same cup awaits those who will not own Jesus as their substitute.

 And the angel goes on to say that those who must drink this cup of God's wrath "will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb".

 One theologian writes this about the fire and brimstone, "Tormented refers to the ceaseless infliction of unbearable pain. Tormented, no relief, pain that is unrelenting and unmitigated, never lessened, never diminished and no split second of respite or rest. It says in the words of our Lord in Luke 16, "The rich man in Hades lifted up his eyes, being in torment." Unrelieved, unmitigated infliction of unbearable pain."

- Isaiah 34:8 For the Lord has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 Its streams will be turned into pitch, and its loose earth into <u>brimstone</u>, and its land will become burning pitch. 10 It will not be quenched night or day; its smoke will go up forever.
- Luke 17:29 But on the day that Lot went out from Sodom <u>it rained</u> <u>fire and brimstone</u> from heaven and destroyed them all.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into <a href="https://doi.org/10.2016/j.jcp.201

• So what is brimstone – it is something like a hot molten burning lava that would come from a volcano.

• Rev 20:10 <u>And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone</u>, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

 Rev 21:8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

 And then we have this phrase – "in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb".

• The fact that the holy angels and Jesus will witness the torment of the lost will serve to shame them for their sin and, in fact, add to their suffering to be eternally reminded that One died for them. (their suffering could have been avoided)

 But what about 2nd Thes 1:9 "These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power"?

• So how might we reconcile these two verses? One clearly says Jesus and the angels will witness the eternal torment of the lost, and the other says the lost are deprived of His presence.

This is not some proof that the Bible has contradictions.

 Since both make clear statements that might seem contradictory, I suggest that what is meant is that the lost are deprived of His presence in any form of comfort, aid, mercy, or hope.

 God is now, and always will be omnipresent and as such He is in one sense or another always present everywhere.

 Hell, the place of the lost is not out of His reach and certainly not out of His sovereign control.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they
may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates
into the city. 15 <u>Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the</u>
immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and
everyone who loves and practices lying.

- Those who reject Christ are said to be "outside", they still exist in an eternal state of agony, separation, and torment, but they are not beyond His jurisdiction.
- Rev 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

 Again I say, the fact that the lost are in the lake of fire does nothing to negate that they are eternal beings – they still exist, but they are "outside" of the wonderful presence of God where the believer dwells.

 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

• This verse, and others, serve to rule out what the Catholic Church believes – that everyone, no matter how wicked, and no matter their lack of belief, will eventually be taken to Heaven.

• This is what is rightly called "damnable heresy" – it is what the natural man wishes, and wants to be true, but God says otherwise.

