

## Revelation 14:6-20

### "Getting Out The Word Of God"

As believers, we are generally very good & taking God's Word *in*. However I have discovered (perhaps you have as well) that we're generally very bad at getting God's Word *out*. Meaning that we come to church (which is a wonderful thing) & we bathe *in* & drink of the pure waters of the word of God. But then, having been filled ourselves most of us never allow those living waters to flow forth *from* us or minister to others *through* us.

We may occasionally speak w/or encourage other *believers* w/God's word (which again is a wonderful thing), but it's a rarity to engage the *unbeliever* in a manner that confronts them w/the realities of their need to *receive* Christ & the consequences of *rejecting* Christ. Yet the bible exhorts us that we are to speak the truth in love; be it to the positive or to the negative. Whether it be in administering a faithful wound (meaning sharing a word [in love] someone may not *want* to hear but perhaps they *need* to hear), or the healing balm, we need to get God's word out to the dark & dying world around us. The bible calls it being "salt & light". How can someone make an intelligent decision if they don't have all the facts?

Now that's not to say that we need to go all "hellfire & brimstone" on people; but neither are we to shy away from the very real consequences of a rejection of J.C. Jude put it this way; he said, "...on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh." <sup>1</sup>

Meaning that as a general rule we know that it's the goodness of God that leads man to repentance. It's God's grace that melts the wicked heart, after where we've been & what we've done that God loves us, wants to forgive us, knowing that while we were in rebellion against Him, Jesus died for us that we might be made clean in the sight of God. That's a message that's hard to resist (though some manage). But others need the facts cold & hard, they need the proverbial glass of cold water splashed in their face that they might wake up the reality of where the road ends that they happen to be on.

That's what this next section of scripture (at least through Vs 11) is all about. We spoke last week about the 144,000; they're kind of the "ground troops" (heaven's special forces) the "sealed team" of the great tribulation. This next section is all about "air support" we'll see a triple angelic "fly by" informing the world that "man's day" is at the end, it's time for "God's Day" to begin.

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version, 1982 (Jud 22-23). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

As for our loose outline; here it comes. In Vs 6 we have “The Proclamation”, Vs 7 “The Exhortation”, Vs 8-11 “The Indignation” (including both the plea, & the penalty). In Vs 12-13 we take a little turn and see “The Resting”, & in Vs 14-20 “The Reaping”.  
Vs 6-7

The proclamation & the exhortation; John saw another angel, an angel that had been summoned & sent out by God to give one last call (as it were) to receive God’s *grace* before God’s *judgment* is poured out in full unrelenting strength upon all who would reject J.C.

Now I don’t know about you but to me this is a remarkable, almost unbelievable scene! God dispatches this angel *from* heaven to fly through the *midst* of heaven to preach the everlasting gospel to all who dwell on the earth. You see, don’t be confused by the word “heaven” here in Vs 6 so as to think that the reference is to the place God dwells. It’s *not*. The word here in the original language is a reference to “mid sky”, it’s translated as “the place the sun occupies at noon” meaning that “what is done & said can be seen & heard by all”. Are you pickin up what I’m throwin down? This angel (no reference to his physical stature but I assume he’s sizeable) will be flying throughout the sky proclaiming the everlasting gospel to those who dwell on the earth.

In Ch 13 we spoke about message & the mission of the beast & the false prophet during this time. This is what’s on *God’s* agenda during this time; as the A.C. will be pressuring people from a religious, political & economic position to worship him, this angel will be sharing the truth w/mankind that *God* is the One that they should fear & worship, not this global dictator.

Now this is some good stuff & some things are here that we want to take note of. 1<sup>st</sup> of all we want to note 2 characteristics (if you will) of the gospel. #1 It is eternal in nature, & #2 it is universal in it’s scope.

#1 It is eternal in nature, it is the *everlasting* gospel; that is, it’s significance toward you & me lasts forever. This salvation that Jesus has secured for you & me through the purchase price of His shed blood, His death & resurrection isn’t good for only the 1<sup>st</sup> 2,000 yrs. Or the 1<sup>st</sup> 10,000 yrs, it’s forever. In John Ch 10 Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall **never** perish”<sup>2</sup> The sufficiency of the shed blood of Jesus is eternal; the gospel is everlasting.

#2 It’s scope is *universal*. It goes out to *every* nation, tribe, tongue & people.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (Jn 10:27-28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

There are no people, nowhere exempt from this message. God is not willing that *any* should perish, for God so loved *the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whosoever* would believe upon Him should not perish but have eternal life. The gospel; eternal in nature, universal in scope.

Something else I want to point out here is that for as much as we'd like to see it, & for as much more effective as they would be, currently angels have not been commissioned to preach the gospel. That responsibility is left to you & me; we have been commissioned to get God's word out. *We're* the ones to whom Jesus said, "Go into all the world & preach the gospel to every creature".

Certainly it would seem as though should an angel suddenly show up in flaming fire; commanding fire to fall from heaven & speaking in a voice like thunder call men to repent of their sins & trust in Jesus that he would get several decisions for Christ! **But God hasn't ordained that to be the method by which He appeals to man. Rather God has chosen to have those whom He's redeemed appeal to those who are *not* redeemed that they might believe upon the Lord J.C. & so be saved from the penalty of their sins...**

Now in Matt 24 Jesus said, **"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."**<sup>3</sup> Because of this Vs there are certain groups who have taken it as a personal mandate to preach the gospel to every nation saying that Jesus can't come back till we get it done. **Listen, #1 this Vs has nothing to do w/the return of Jesus for His church. It has to do w/the end of the world... (I'm not saying we should slack in our missionary endeavors, but nor should we ramp them up w/the express agenda of seeking to usher in the Lord's return).**

Jesus was in reference to the time period we're reading of right here & before He comes back to establish His millennial kingdom God will see to it Personally that those who dwell on the earth will have the opportunity to repent. Through the supernatural means of angelic intervention this world will hear the gospel (this isn't a satellite, or some form of man made technology; God will supernaturally send out the message). (Notice, **Vs 7**)

**4 Things we want to see in Vs 7. We've already made mention of the contrast that's happening here. The A.C. is calling for the worship of himself, this angel points people in the *proper* direction, to worship God, the Creator, not something lesser than God that is *created*; it's not rational to worship creation, it's rational to worship our Creator.**

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version, 1982 (Mt 24:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Notice (1<sup>st</sup> of all) **Three Attributes Characteristic Of The Gospel Message**

**Appropriately Applied.** Now different people use different approaches, you might use the Roman's road, you might use "natural theology" pointing to intelligent design demanding a Divine Designer, you might use the law to show people their sin. Different people employ different methods, at the end of the day these are the things we need.

**#1 Conviction** The angel says in a loud voice "Fear God". The bible declares, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*"<sup>4</sup> When all this is coming down there will be so much fear in the world, fear on every side; the gospel will place priorities in their proper place, "Fear God!" It's conviction that smites the conscience and awakens the soul, causing me to sense & see my need.

**#2 Conversion** "Give glory to Him." 1<sup>st</sup> comes conviction, then comes conversion. **One of the earmarks of the unregenerate, the unbeliever is that they refuse to give God glory. They may glory in themselves, or anyone or anything else, but God is not on the list. However one of the earmarks of those who have been born again is that they will give glory to God.** The believer wants to glorify, & magnify Jesus, He has made us all, given us all, laid down His life for us all, He has redeemed us, given His Holy Spirit to us, He fills us, uses us & then rewards us eternally. It's all about Him, we want to glorify Him, not so the unbeliever.

<sup>3rdly</sup> **#3 Consecration** "worship Him who made heaven & earth, the sea & the springs of water." This is where we draw near to God, give to God the reigns of our lives; we want to worship Him, & pour out our lives unto Him.

**The gospel message appropriately applied in my life will result in conviction, conversion & consecration. May these 3 things be the earmarks of our lives; that we fear God, give glory to God & worship God who has created all things & given us life.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> thing I would point out in this Vs are the words, "for the hour of His judgment has come". The idea there is that we need to be ready to stand before God because that day is coming as sure as you're hearing this word today.

Now *this* is a reference to the *final* day; but you & me, we could have our day *any* day. The question is are you ready for the hour of His judgment. Should you see Jesus today are you sure that your heart is in His hands? (If not you can be sure today).

**Vs 8**

More about Babylon in Ch 17. The actual downfall we will see in 18 but this angel announces the future w/such certainty that it's proclaimed in a manner that's already done.

<sup>4</sup> The New King James Version, 1982 (Pr 9:10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Because the details of Babylon are found in future Ch's we'll move on for now. Suffice it for now to say that it represents mankind in organized rebellion against God. At times refers to a literal city, at times it's a political/commercial system, at times it's a religious system but it always roots in man's organized rebellion against God dating clear back to the tower of Babel in Gen 11.

Because the world has been led to worship false gods & follow a false religious system (which God considers spiritual fornication/unfaithfulness to Him) God will destroy that city & that system. This angel declares that this world system is as good as gone, it's about to collapse. The bible exhorts us not to love the world nor the things in the world, don't set your mind on things on the earth, they don't satisfy (ultimately) & they won't last (eternally).

#### Vs 9-11

Here is where we dismiss the notion of being deceived into taking the mark of the beast. It's not the "verichip", you're not going to go to the bank, receive a mark, or get a chip injected under your skin only to find out later you've been duped into receiving the mark of the beast.

This angel will connect the dots very clearly that this particular mark is tantamount to rejecting J.C. & submitting your life in servitude to this global dictator that the world will worship as God. To take this mark is to say, "I've heard the everlasting gospel, I don't believe it, what I *do* believe is that this man is going to overcome God & that we will be victorious in the place of God." It's to have rejected the love of the truth & bought into the lie that Satan will actually overcome God.

Ultimately that will flesh itself out at the battle of Armageddon which comes into view for us at the end of this Ch. But the angel makes it clear that to receive this mark is to forfeit eternity w/God & to subject yourself to eternity in hell. It is a definitive decision that will determine your eternal destiny.

"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.) While on earth, even in wrath God remembers mercy; but in hell it's His full undiluted wrath against sin "poured out full strength" "& he shall be tormented w/fire & brimstone..."

This is that cup, (the cup of God's wrath against sin) that Jesus drank to the dregs for you & for me. But if you choose to drink of it yourself, rather than receive what Jesus absorbed & atoned for on our behalf, than this is the cup that awaits you...

The idea that God holds a “cup of wrath” of which He makes those under His judgment drink is referenced in the bible over a dozen times (Ps 75:8, Jer 25:15-16). It’s as though it’s being filled to the brim w/sin & rebellion; & once it reaches the top God will press it to the lips of that person or those people & they will be forced to drink it’s full strength.

In this context we’re considering eternal consequences, “They shall be tormented w/fire & brimstone in the presence of the holy angels & in the presence of the Lamb.” Brimstone being that sulfur like smell that makes you sick, hell is not only suffering it’s sickening.

Some teach (perhaps I’ve taught before) that hell will be void of the presence of the Lord...it won’t. People in hell could wish the Lord’s presence wasn’t there to remind them. It will be void of God’s *love* but not His holy wrath against sin. Their torment will take place in the presence of the Lamb. “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever & ever & they have no rest day or night...”

Now there are liberal theologians who’ve sought to eliminate the idea of eternal punishment. They call it “annihilationism”, it seeks to state that you will suffer for a certain period of time then you will simply cease to be. Now in my humanity I kind of like the sound of that; the problem is it’s not what the word of God teaches.

You see the problem is one of atonement. God’s righteous indignation against sin demands satisfaction. When we’re wronged we want justice, God’s righteousness demands justice. Payment for sin must be atoned for perfectly in order to be released from its penalty. Herein lies the problem; there are no perfect people. You see if once a person had been in hell for 500,000 yrs they could make a perfect sacrifice, they could be released. The problem is that it’s impossible for an imperfect person to make a perfect sacrifice therefore it’s never possible to be released... Only 1 Person has ever walked this earth & been w/out sin; therefore only *He* has been able to make a perfect payment, therefore it’s only in *Him* that we’re released of our debt... And again I say, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (J.C.), that whosoever believes in *Him* should not perish but have eternal life...”

God’s love is not a sentimental love, it is a holy love & therefore He must deal w/sin. That’s why Jesus came, do you realize that Jesus taught on hell more than He taught on heaven? Because He doesn’t want you to go there...

You guys hell is real, it is a place of torment, & it's forever. The strongest expression of eternity available to John is what he used here in describing the torment & the unrest of the wicked. "Forever & ever", or more literally "into the ages of ages".

Proclamation, exhortation, indignation.

### Vs 12-13

"The Resting". Note the contrast; the wicked shall have *no rest* day or night (continually tormented), yet those who die in the Lord will *rest from their labors*... What a comfort that will be for those being martyred for their faith in that day... In that day it will be easy to follow the beast, it will be radically difficult to follow after Christ. Yet the encouragement to the believers that the A.C. & his followers may reign for a few years but will be tormented eternally; & though you may be tormented for a few years, you will reign w/J.C. & rest from your labors eternally.

Much like Vs 10 of Ch 13 this is a word of encouragement... a "don't grow weary" kind of statement to those seeking to be faithful to J.C. in the midst of such trying times.

Notice, "Their works follow them." The things you do motivated by the Love of God, & for the glory of God will go w/you & before you into heaven. The most menial tasks of earth, done as unto the Lord become meaningful rewards in heaven. It's no wonder the bible exhorts us, "And **whatever** you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."<sup>5</sup>

### Vs 14-16

From the Resting, to "The Reaping". Some want to see this as a reaping in a positive sense because the word "harvest" is used. However the context points to the opposite & the bible is clear that even as there is a harvest of the righteous there is also a harvest of the wicked.

You might jot down Matt 13:24-30, 36-43. Jesus said, "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."<sup>6</sup>

Here we see an angel make the announcement that it's time for the harvest. He says, "the harvest of the earth is ripe", really the word is "withered up" or "over ripe" God extends His grace to the maximum allowable time. Then the Lord thrusts in His sickle & judgment falls.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version, 1982 (Col 3:23-24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>6</sup> The New King James Version, 1982 (Mt 13:40-42). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Some see this as another angel, but when you start throwing around words & phrases like, “Son of Man” “having on His head a golden crown”, you start talking about the One who “rides upon the clouds” (Ps 68:4) we’re talking about the Lord here.

#### Vs 17-20

Vs 14-16 = the reaping of grain, here the picture is the reaping of grapes. You’ve heard the phrase, “The grapes of wrath”, well here it is.

As to where Israel was God’s vine that failed in bearing fruit & Jesus is the true vine of which we are the branches, here we have the “vine of the earth”. Jesus is the heavenly vine, this (the world’s system) is the vine of the earth; & much like that cup that fills to the brim w/sin, when the vine of the earth is fully ripe, the sickle of judgment will be thrust in & the grapes will be trod under the foot of Jesus in judgment.

The spurting of fully ripe grapes under the heel of the one who treads the winepress is like unto the spurting of human blood under the judgment of J.C. How much resistance does a fully ripe grape offer to the heel of the one who crushes it? Not much, neither will man’s best efforts of resisting Jesus matter on the Day of Judgment.

Like juice that bursts forth from a grape being crushed blood will flow from mankind up to the horses bridle over 180 miles (1,600 furlongs). Be it in a constant flow or a reference to blood splattering everywhere due to the tremendous carnage either way it’s a solemn scene total destruction of all who would defy Christ His rightful place as King.

Complete & comprehensive judgment; write it down, look at it later, Isaiah 63:1-6. It’s a deceived people who believe they can actually overcome the Lord... How important it is to get out the word of God, that people might look *to* Jesus, believe *in* Jesus & so be saved from the penalty of their sins... Leave the book of Rev, we’ll close in **Psalm 2**.

Prayer Points:

Lord we have placed our trust in You. May we serve You w/fear, give glory to You, & worship You w/all that we are. May we consider soberly the things we’ve learned today & so be stirred to be the salt & light you’ve called us to be & get Your word out.

I’m not sure it would be fair for me to share a study like this & not give you an opportunity to turn your heart to Jesus & believe upon Him. Turn from your sin, trust in the Lord & make peace w/God through the blood of His cross. It’s either a blood bath in judgment or being bathed in the blood of J.C. being washed clean of all your sin. The choice is yours. Jesus died for your sins, was buried & 3 days later rose from the dead so that you (by believing) might have life in His name, why not trust in Him right here, right now?