

**I. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #3 - THE SEVENTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT**

- A. This is *the third chronological section* (Rev. 11:15–19) in which events in Jesus' end-time action plan are seen. This is the shortest chronological section (five verses) requiring a much larger angelic section following it where the Lord explains why He must replace every earthly government.
- B. *At the seventh trumpet*, an announcement in heaven will declare that the Lord will take over and replace all the governments on earth. At this time, He will **do three things**—He will *judge the dead, reward the saints, and destroy the leaders who are responsible for destroying the earth.*
- <sup>15</sup>The seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*
- <sup>16</sup>And the twenty-four elders...worshiped God, <sup>17</sup>saying: “We give You thanks... because You have taken Your great power and reigned. <sup>18</sup>The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants...and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (Rev. 11:15–18)*
- C. Jesus is not taking the saints away to heaven or permanently destroying the earth, but returning with the saints to take over the earth and its administration as King of Kings.
- D. *Nations were angry*: The nations are angry because they have resisted God, His ways and now resist His appointment of Jesus (Psalm 2:1–6; 110:5–6; Rev. 1:7; 19:19).
- E. *Dead should be judged*: Here the decree is given that the dead unbelievers should be judged. The Lord does not judge them until the end of His reign on earth before handing the Kingdom to Father (John 5:29; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:11–15; 1 Cor. 15:24), but their fate is now declared as a reality.
- F. *Reward your servants*: All saints will stand before the judgment (evaluation) seat of the Lord (Rom. 14:10–12; 2 Cor. 5:9–11) to *receive a reward* including *a glorified, resurrected body* with increased capacities (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; 1 Cor. 15:42–49, 54; Mt. 13:12; 25:29), *a role in God's government* (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 22:5) and *a place in the New Jerusalem, our eternal home* (Jn. 14:2–3; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:9–22:5).
- G. Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the *last trumpet* (1 Cor. 15:51–52). The last trumpet is the *seventh trumpet* that *sounds for days* when *the mystery (purpose) of God* is finished (Rev. 10:7).
- <sup>51</sup>Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)*
- <sup>7</sup>...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His...prophets. (Rev. 10:7)*
- H. In 1 Thes. 4:16–17, Paul describes saints “asleep” and alive on earth will be “caught up” with the Lord at the same time as the trumpet of God. The actual Greek word for “caught-up” is *harpazo* (ἁρπάζω). The Latin translation of the Greek is *rapturo*, where we get “rapture”. Isaiah saw the moment of the resurrection of the saints who had died, bursting forth from the ground in song (Isa. 26:19).
- <sup>16</sup>The Lord will descend from heaven...with the trumpet of God...<sup>17</sup>We who are alive... shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)*
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**II. THIRD ANGELIC EXPLANATION (PARENTHESIS): WAR IN THE SPIRIT (REV. 12–14)**

- A. The third angelic explanation is a parenthetical section (Rev. 12–14). There will be a fierce war in the spirit between Satan and God’s people during the Great Tribulation leading up to the rapture. ***This section answers why God’s wrath is so severe*** that He must replace all the governments on earth. Satan and the Antichrist will violently attack God’s people (Rev. 12–13). Jesus will help the saints (Rev. 14).
1. Revelation 12 describes war in the heavens between Satan and Michael the archangel. Then Satan attacking the people of God: Israel and the Church.
  2. Revelation 13 describes war on the earth between the Antichrist and the saints.
  3. Revelation 14 describes *seven visions* that give insight into the different ways in which the Lord will intervene to empower the Church to walk in great victory.
- B. The seven main symbols in the book of Revelation are in this parenthetical section (Rev. 12–14). Daniel used most of these symbols (Dan 7:3–7, 12, 17). He described the Antichrist as the Beast with a vast empire (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19–23) supported by ten kings whom he described as the ten horns on the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24; 2:41–42; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- C. ***The dragon***: is always symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)
- D. ***The first Beast***: is symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9–11; 17:3–17; 19:19–21; 20:4, 10)
- E. ***Another Beast***: is symbolic of the False Prophet who is only called, “another Beast” one time. Every other time he is called the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11–17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
- F. ***The seven heads***: the seven empires that persecute Israel are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and Islamic Caliphate (Dan. 2:41–42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3–16).
- G. ***The ten horns***: speaks of a future 10-nation confederation of ten kings who rule simultaneously over their own nation while coming into enthusiastic agreement or partnership together under the Antichrist’s authority (Dan. 2:41–42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36–45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- H. ***The Harlot Babylon: The most compelling theory*** is put forward by Joel Richardson in his book, *Mystery Babylon (2017)*, which takes the present ***city of Mecca*** to best fit the description of “Babylon” found in Rev. 17–18. *The city* will serve as a headquarters—it will function as a center of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17–18; cf. Isa. 13–14; 21; Jer. 50–51), and will seduce many to sin while also persecuting the saints.
1. Some take the Harlot Babylon ***to include the literal, re-built city of Babylon*** on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) that will be restored and used as a headquarters for the Antichrist, but there are some problems with this approach.
  2. Rev. 17–18’s descriptions of the city ***does not fit*** the location of the city of Babylon in Iraq and it’s role on the present world stage. However, Mecca with it’s worldwide seduction, economic influence, topography and imports does.
  3. There is precedent for Babylon to refer to an influential city (or empire) which oppresses God’s people, both Jews and Christians—Peter called *Rome*, “Babylon.” (1 Pet. 5:13)

- I. ***The Woman with the Male-child (Jesus)***: The woman is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12:1-5). Satan wars with her offspring who are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:17).

### III. WAR BREAKS OUT IN HEAVEN - SATAN CONFINED TO EARTH (REV. 12)

- A. War will break out in heaven between Satan and Michael the archangel (Rev. 12:7–12). The result is that Satan will be cast to the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

***<sup>7</sup>War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup>but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup>The dragon...called the Devil...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...<sup>12</sup>Woe to the inhabitants of the earth...for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath [fury, NIV], because he knows that he has a short time. (Rev. 12:7-12)***

- B. Some teach that this war in heaven occurred at the cross and that Satan is now confined to the earth. However, we war against Satan's host operating in the heavenly places in this age (Eph. 6:12; 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12, Col. 1:16; 2:15; cf. Deut. 32:8; Dan. 10:13, 20).

***<sup>12</sup>We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities...against the rulers of the darkness...against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)***

- C. The Bible reveals that there are *three heavens*.

1. ***The third heaven*** (1 Cor. 12:2) is where *the heavenly city* is (Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22; Gal 4:26; Phil. 3:20), *the New Jerusalem, a massive 1380 mile cube* (Rev. 3:12; chapter 21–22), *our eternal home* (John 14:2–3; 1 Thess. 4:7), *the paradise where Paul visited* (1 Cor. 12:1–4), *with a height like a great mountain* (Psalm 48:1–3; Isa. 14:13–14; Ezek. 28:14; Rev. 21:10; Heb. 12:22), where the Lord resides, including *His heavenly temple and throne* (Rev. 4–5; 11:19; Ps. 11:4; 29:9), *before which saints congregate on the sea of glass* (Ex. 24:9–11; Rev. 4:6; 15:2).
2. The “***heavenly places***,” often called “mid-heavens” or “second heavens” *where fallen angels, including Satan, now reside: including principalities, powers and rulers of darkness, etc...* (Eph. 6:12; 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12, Col. 1:16; 2:15; Jude 6) as they *deceive and affect the nations* (Deut. 32:8; Dan. 10:13, 20; 1 Kgs. 22:19; 2 Chron. 18:18), *blind the hearts of men* (Eph. 2:2). The Bible calls them “gods” in the delegated power He gave them which they still exercise but they will “die” like mere men in the Lake of Fire (Isa. 24:21; Psalm 82:1, 5–8; Rev. 20:10, 14).
3. ***The first heavens*** is the sky and atmosphere above the earth (Gen. 2:1, 4; 2 Chron. 6:26; Psalm 19:1)

- D. One of unique dynamics in the Great Tribulation is that *Satan and all his angels will be cast to the earth* (Rev. 12:9, 13). He will give his throne to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). He will be on the world's stage briefly in enlisting the nations to fight against Jesus (Rev. 16:13). Multitudes of demons in the bottomless pit now will be released onto the earth (Rev. 9:3, 16).

***<sup>2</sup>The Dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne ... (Rev. 13:2)***

IV. SATAN'S END TIME RAGE AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE (REV. 12:13-17)

*<sup>13</sup>Now when the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [remnant of Israel] who gave birth to the male Child [Jesus]. <sup>14</sup>But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [3½ years], from the presence of the serpent [Satan]. <sup>15</sup>So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth [persecution] like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood [destroyed]. <sup>16</sup>But the earth [natural elements touched by God's power] helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup>And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [end-time Church], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:13–17).*

- A. When Satan sees he is confined to earth, he will persecute Israel and the saints (Rev. 12:13, 17). Here is another passage that tells us the Church is present during the Great Tribulation, not raptured before it.
- B. The woman or remnant of Israel is given two wings of a great eagle. This speaks of at time when God will miraculously deliver, protect, and provide for her in the wilderness. God manifested the strength, swiftness, and attentiveness of an eagle to care for Israel in the time of the Exodus from Egypt. He continued His care during for forty years in the wilderness, providing manna from the sky and water from a rock. He protected them from the hostility of neighboring nations.

*<sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings... (Ex. 19:4)*

*<sup>11</sup>As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, <sup>12</sup>So the LORD alone led him... (Deut. 32:11-12)*

- C. Israel will flee into the wilderness to her place where she is *nourished* and protected from the presence of Satan for 3½ years (Rev. 12:14). Satan will seek to destroy all Israel (Rev. 12:15).
- D. During this time, Jews will be scattered among the nations. Some will be prisoners in prison houses or camps and others outcasts on the run: The Bible calls them “the outcasts,” (Isa. 11:16; 27:13) “the dispersed of Judah” (Isa. 11:12); “the remnant of His people who are left,” (Isa. 11:11, 16), “those about to perish” and “prisoners” (Isa. 42:7; 49:9), “who sit in darkness in a prison house” (Isa. 42:7), “a people robbed and plundered,” “snared in holes” and “hidden in prison houses (Isa. 42:22; 49:9); “the preserved ones” (Isa. 49:6), prey (Isa. 49:25); “captives” and “bound” (Isa. 61:1–2). More passages exist on this topic: Jer. 30:3-24; 31:1-23; Ezek. 20:33–44; 39:25-29; Hos. 11:10-11; Amos 9:8-15; Joel 3:1–2; Zeph. 3:19–20; Zech. 9:10–14.

*<sup>35</sup>...I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples [Gentiles]... I will plead My case with you face to face. <sup>36</sup>...as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt... (Ezek. 20:35–36)*

- E. Besides the Jews that are in the wilderness, there is a group that stays in the land of Israel. One third of them are preserved as they are refined in their faith (Zech. 13:8–9; 14:1-2; Rom. 11:25–27).
- F. Jesus will judge each nation according to how they treat the Jewish people during this time of trouble (Mat. 25:31–46). EG., Through Isaiah, He warns Modern Jordan to care for Jewish outcasts, not betray them (Isa. 16:3–4).

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<sup>3</sup> ***Do not betray him who escapes.*** <sup>4</sup> ***Let My outcasts [Jewish people fleeing Antichrist] dwell with you, O Moab [Modern Jordan]; Be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler [Antichrist]. (Isa. 16:3-4)***

**V. SATAN WARS THROUGH THE ANTICHRIST AND FALSE PROPHET (REV. 13)**

A. Satan will seek to destroy Israel and the Church (Rev. 12:17; cf. Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33–35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9–11; 7:9, 14; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5–7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; 20:4; Mt. 10:21–22, 28; 24:9; Lk. 12:4–7; 21:16–19; Jn. 15:18–16:4). The persecution of the saints is a secondary theme in the Book of Revelation.

B. In Revelation 13, Satan will give his authority to the Antichrist to destroy Israel and the Church (Rev. 13:2). Revelation 13 describes the resources that the Antichrist will have to war against God's people.

C. The Antichrist will be a world leader who has a political, military, and economic alliance with ten nations giving him the largest empire and the most powerful army in history. The Antichrist will be fully human, yet fully demonized with Satan's authority (Rev. 13:2; Dan. 8:24; 2 Thess. 2:9; Gen. 3:15).

***<sup>3</sup>The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority...<sup>4</sup>They worshiped the dragon...and worshiped the Beast, saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?"...<sup>7</sup>It was granted to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome [kill] them. Authority was given him over every tribe...and nation. (Rev. 13:3–7)***

D. The Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand that the whole earth worship him as he seeks to assert his authority over the nations (Dan. 8:11; 11:36; 2 Thes. 2:4). He will have authority and worshippers in all nations, *yet will not totally dominate them all*. There will be nations who resist him *North, East* (Far Eastern nations) and *West of Israel* (Western Europe, Americas?) where his palace will be (Dan. 11:40–45; Isa. 59:19; Rev. 16:14).

***<sup>19</sup>So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west [Europe, Americas], and His glory from the rising of the sun [Far Eastern nations]; when the enemy comes in like a flood [Antichrist's army in Israel], the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. (Isa. 59:19)***

***<sup>41</sup>He [Antichrist] shall also enter the Glorious Land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon [Modern Jordan].***

***<sup>42</sup>He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.<sup>43</sup> He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians [Sudan] shall follow at his heels.<sup>44</sup> But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.<sup>45</sup> ...yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him. (Dan. 11:41–45)***

E. Yet in the final, literal days of the Bowl judgments (after the rapture), the Antichrist unifies and convinces all the nations to stand against Jesus (Psalm 2:2; Isa. 24:21; Rev. 16:12, 14: 19:19).

***<sup>14</sup>For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. (Rev. 16:14)***

F. The Antichrist will seek to kill anyone who refuses to worship him (Rev. 13:8, 12, 15). This will lead billions of people to engage in Satan worship.

**<sup>8</sup>All who dwell on the earth will worship him [Antichrist], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)**

- G. The False Prophet will be the leader of a future worldwide religious network that will be devoted to causing all the nations to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11–18).

**<sup>11</sup>I saw another beast [False Prophet]...he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11)**

- H. Joel Richardson's book, *Islamic Antichrist*, explains how Islamic end-time theology's "Messiah" fits the Bible's description of the Antichrist while there is also an Islamic end time figure that fits the False Prophet. His book, *Mideast Beast*, offers much convincing support to what ten nations comprise the Beast.

- I. John highlighted three strategies the False Prophet will use to get the nations to worship the Beast.

1. First, he will be a prophet with a message. His demonically empowered *public speeches* will be confirmed by great miracles that will deceive the masses (Rev. 13:12–14). Many tell of Hitler's persuasion in his public speeches, mobilizing people to his demonic agenda.

**<sup>12</sup>He exercises all the authority of the first Beast...and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast...<sup>13</sup>He performs great signs...<sup>14</sup>He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs... (Rev. 13:12–14)**

2. Second, he will establish a worship system related to the abomination of desolation (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:3-4). An image of the Antichrist will be set up in the temple. It will be a demonically empowered statue that appears to breath and speak (Rev. 13:14–15). This is a vague description in how this works, yet the statue will appear to have "life" on its own, allowing the Antichrist to rule while the statue receives worship. This is an attempt to contradict the Bible's critique towards idols in that they can't speak (Ps. 115:3–8; 135:15–18; Isa. 40:18–19; 41:29; 42:8–9; 44:9–20; 48:5).

**<sup>14</sup>Telling those who dwell on earth to make an image [statue] to the Beast...<sup>15</sup>He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:14-15)**

3. The abomination of desolation will be a series of abominable or evil events. They will be an abomination to God that results in global desolation or destruction. The abomination will be the Antichrist's claim to be God, along with his demand that all worship him.

**<sup>15</sup>When you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...<sup>16</sup>then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Mt. 24:15-16)**

**<sup>3</sup>The son of perdition [Antichrist] <sup>4</sup>opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God...sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thes. 2:3-4)**

4. The image of the Beast may combine cutting-edge technology and demonic elements that cause the image to appear to breathe and speak. The image may be a high-tech hologram that looks and sounds like the Antichrist. Some suggest that there may be many regional Antichrist worship centers with a duplicate image of the Antichrist that is connected to the “primary” image in Jerusalem by technology, the result being a global network of local “Antichrist worship sanctuaries” that may each include a hologram of the Antichrist.
5. The law will require all to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12, 15). Those who refuse will be guilty of the death penalty. He will use the power of the state to kill all who resist him.
6. *Third*, he will establish a worldwide economic system that forces the nations to worship the Antichrist by the *mark of the Beast* put on their hand or forehead to force everyone to declare publicly their loyalty to the Antichrist. Those refusing this mark will not be able to buy or sell.

***<sup>16</sup>He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead...<sup>17</sup>that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark...<sup>18</sup>His number is 666. (Rev. 13:16–18)***

## **VI. JESUS WILL SUPERNATURALLY HELP THE CHURCH COME TO VICTORY (REV. 14)**

- A. The purpose of this part of the parenthetical section is *to give insight into the certainty of victory for the saints* and *to give understanding regarding why God's wrath is so severe* in replacing all the governments of the earth in the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15).
- B. God promised to intervene to help the saints (Rev. 14:1–20). Note three sections in this chapter.
  1. The 144,000 first fruits of Israel will be a model of victory for others (Rev. 14:1–5).
  2. Four proclamations that the Spirit will anoint (Rev. 14:6–13).
  3. A two-fold harvest of salvation and judgment (Rev. 14:14–20).

## **VII. FIRST SECTION: THE 144,000 FIRST FRUITS OF ISRAEL (REV. 14:1–5)**

- A. Jesus will stand on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 singers (Rev. 14:1–5). These are the ones earlier sealed or protected from judgment (Rev. 7:4–8). These 144,000 singers will be *a model of victory* in the midst of persecution as they *provide great strength* to the Church by their prophetic singing that *releases God's power*. This scene is on earth as a voice is heard above them in heaven and they have the opportunity to marry (celibates) (Rev. 14:2, 4).

***<sup>1</sup>Behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. I heard the sound of harpists... <sup>3</sup>They [the harpists] sang as it were a new song before the throne...and no one could learn that song except the 144,000...<sup>4</sup>These are the ones who were not defiled with [immoral] women, for they are virgins [celibates]. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes...<sup>5</sup>In their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault [compromise]... (Rev. 14:1–5)***

- B. They will be deeply dedicated to Jesus as seen by the five virtues stated in verses 4–5.

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**VIII. SECOND SECTION: FOUR PROCLAMATIONS THE SPIRIT WILL ANOINT (REV. 14:6–13)**

- A. John identified four promises or messages that must be boldly proclaimed (Rev. 14:6–13). When these messages are given, the Spirit will release power to confirm these messages to strengthen His people.
- B. *The first angel's proclamation: The gospel being preached in all nations* (Rev. 14:6–7): There will be angelic assistance and power to succeed in preaching the Gospel to all nations in the presence of great hostility (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9).

*<sup>6</sup>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—<sup>7</sup>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.” (Rev. 14:6-7)*

- C. *The second angel's proclamation. The judgment on Harlot Babylon* (Rev. 14:8): The proclamation of the message of the total defeat of the Harlot Babylon will strengthen the Church (Rev. 17–18).

*<sup>8</sup>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.” (Rev. 14:8)*

- D. *The third angel's proclamation. Eternal judgment* (Rev. 14:9–11): This message is for those who accept the mark of the Beast. There will be an anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming on all who worship the Antichrist. Confidence that the Antichrist will surely be judged will embolden the saints to resist his deceptive allurements and terrifying threats.

*<sup>9</sup>Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast... <sup>10</sup>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... <sup>11</sup>The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast...and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (Rev. 14:9–11)*

- E. *The Lord's announcement to the saints to persevere. Eternal rewards for faithfulness* (Rev. 14:13). Jesus will reward the saints upon His return (Rev. 11:18; 22:12).

*<sup>12</sup>Here is the patience [perseverance] of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. <sup>13</sup>Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” (Rev. 14:12-13)*

**IX. THIRD SECTION: HARVEST OF SALVATION AND JUDGMENT (REV. 14:14–20)**

- A. John saw *two end-time harvests*: of souls (Rev. 14:14–16) and of judgment (Rev. 14:17–20). The culmination of natural human history will see wickedness grow to its fullest but also righteousness. John the Baptist prophesied Jesus would oversee these harvests (Mat. 3:12). Jesus himself prophesied that both righteousness and wickedness would mature at the end of the age (Mat. 13:24–30).



*<sup>14</sup>Behold...One like the Son of Man [Jesus], having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. <sup>15</sup>Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him... “Thrust in Your sickle and reap...for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” (Rev. 14:14–15)*

- B. All the kings of the earth will be gathered into one geographic area (Zech. 12:2–3; 14:2; cf. Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:14). Jesus will kill them in “this winepress” (Rev. 19:19–21), splattering his garments with the blood of His enemies (Rev. 19:13). A winepress was associated with the celebration of the harvest.

*<sup>2</sup>I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [outside of Jerusalem]; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations...(Joel 3:2)*

- C. The harvest of judgment will result in a river of blood will run nearly 200 miles from Jerusalem. This is the approximate distance of Israel, north to south or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south. The blood runs from the torrential downpours in the last judgment that mingle with it (Isa. 30:30; Ezek. 38:22).

*<sup>17</sup>Another angel came...having a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>Another angel came out from the altar...cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” <sup>19</sup>So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. <sup>20</sup>The winepress was trampled...and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [200 miles]. (Rev. 14:17–20)*