

CHAPTER 14:

In chapter 13 we discussed many of the basic characteristics and attributes of the 'antichrist and the false prophet'. Keep in mind that Chapters 13 & 14 should be considered interlude chapters. However, Chapter 14 appears to describe events that are yet future (at least for the most part → I will comment on which events are past, future or could be both). Keep in mind we are at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period from a chronological stand point. Again, most of these events are going to take place during the second half of the seven year tribulation period and these events could be in heaven or on earth.

There have been numerous attempts by scholars to segment this chapter into manageable sections to make it easier for the reader to understand: keep in mind when reading this chapter it covers more than one event and speaks to an issue that sometimes covers the entire seven year tribulation period. Therefore, I have tried to incorporate the best of these into one outline, which is as follows:

- 1) **Rev. 14:1-5** → **Preview of the second coming of Jesus Christ and additional details about the 144,000 sealed in chapter 7.** (Some scholars do not believe that the 144,000 mentioned in chapter 14 are the same as the 144,000 talked about in chapter 7). We will discuss this issue more when we look at these verses in detail. However, these verses do appear to be focused on the Jews/Israel.
- 2) **The three angels:**
 - a) **Rev. 14:6-7** → Proclamation of the **"eternal gospel"**. Appears to be speaking to all of the people living on the earth during the 'seven year tribulation period'.
 - b) **Rev. 14:8** → Proclamation of the **"fall of Babylon"** → At the mid-point in the seven year tribulation period this would be a → future event. To gain a better understanding of these three words you will need to read Revelations Chapters 17 & 18.
 - c) **Rev. 14:9-12** → Proclamation of the **'doom of the people who have worshiped the beast during this period'**. This statement would be true for the entire seven year tribulation period with a heavy focus on the

last three and one half years. More details on the **'mark of the beast'** in chapter 13:11-18 & outcome for these people in chapter 17 and 19:11-21

d) The words spoken by the three angels appear to be spoken in sequential order of their actual occurrences. And it appears that the **'first angel'** → is speaking directly to the people on the earth (but heaven could also hear his words) and the **'second and third angels'** → appear to be speaking to either the beings/people on earth or in heaven → or both! I base this on how you interpret the wording and context of verses 6 & 13.

3) **Rev. 14:13** → Proclamation of a **special "Blessing"** for those **"who die in the Lord from now on."** It is my opinion that this statement is primarily focused on the → saints who were martyred in the last half of the seven year tribulation period. Although, based on other scripture it would appear that anyone martyred during the seven year tribulation period will receive special attention when they get to heaven because of their **'extreme suffering'** while on earth, see Rev. 6:9-11 and Rev. 7: 9-17.

4) **Rev. 14: 14-20** → I believe that these verses are a preview of the → death and destruction that will encompass the unsaved people of the entire earth during the seven year tribulation period. However, to me, these specific verses appear to be actually focusing on the **'Last Half of the Seven Year Tribulation Period'** → culminating with the **'Battle of Armageddon'** at the **'Second Coming of Jesus Christ'**, see Rev. 19:11-21. I base this on the following:

- a) The events described by the **'Three Angels'** in verses 6-12 appear to be spoken in sequential order of their occurrences.
- b) The **'Third Angel'** speaks about what will happen to the people who **"worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand."** which is they will **"...will drink of the wine of Gods fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath."** And this exactly the event or actions being described in verses 14- 20.

- c) Therefore, it is my opinion that verses 14-20 are just a more detailed description of the 'event/actions described by the 'Third Angel' in verses 9-12.

Begin verse by verse study of Chapter 14.

VERSE 1:

"Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their forehead."

I will break this verse down into its basic subsets to make it easier to understand and provide additional details about each part, which is as follows:

- 1) NIV, **"Then I looked..."** KJV, **"And I looked..."** Greek translator, **"And I saw..."**
I provided three translations to clarify the fact that → **this was the next sequence of events that John witnessed or observed in his vision.** However, remember this is an interlude chapter therefore; it is not the next sequential event in the seven year tribulation process. This chapter is just providing more details about events that have happened or will happen in the last half of the seven year tribulation period.
- 2) **"...and there before me was the Lamb..."** To me this verse is very straight forward and easy to understand. It is talking about **"the"** → **'Lamb of God' or Jesus Christ,** which is the primary topic of the entire Book of Revelations, Rev.1:1, **"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place."** Also, there can be no doubt that Jesus Christ is the **'Lamb of God'**, John 1:29, **"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"** and again in verses 35-36. Last, notice the wording used by John → this is not just any 'lamb' but **"...the Lamb"**. Again there can be no question about who is being described in this verse, **'Jesus Christ who is the Lamb of God'.**

- 3) Next we are told 'Jesus Christ the Lamb of God' is → **"...standing on Mount Zion..."** There have been many views as to the meaning of the actual location being described in this verse. To me the key to understanding the location being described in this verse is:
- a) **ONE** → the fact that **"Mount Zion"** has always been associated with the nation of Israel and Gods chosen people in the Bible.
 - b) **TWO** → again, I believe that the 144,000 mentioned in both chapters 7 & 14 are the same and the 144,000 being discussed in chapter 7 are 12,000 from each tribe of Israel.
 - c) **THREE** → Clarence Larkin, in his book; **'The Book of Revelations'** → **states that verses 1-5 are describing an event that is going on in heaven, therefore, the Mount Zion that is being described is the one in heaven.** Paul describes this in Hebrews 12:22-23b, **"But you have come, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the first born, whose names are written in heaven."** I believe his assumption, as to where this scene is taking place is, is validated because of the context/location in verse 3, **"And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders."**
 - d) **Conclusion** → However, regardless of the location of this scene this is a foretelling to the **'Second Coming' of Jesus Christ'**, which is better described in Rev. 19:11-21.
 - e) There have been other scholars who have associated these verses Rev. 14:1-5 with the one in Zech. 14:4, **"On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem..."** → with the **'The Mount of Olives'** indicating : 1) **'The Seat of Royal Power'**, 2) **If you add Jesus Christ standing on the mount of Olives, they relate this to Gods intervention in grace,** 3) last, **Jehovah's sovereignty.**
- 4) To me the next portion of this sentence, **"...and with him 144,000..."** describes **'some'** of the saints that will return with Jesus Christ at his **'Second Coming'**. These 144,000 are not all inclusive of the saints that will be with Jesus Christ when he returns, second coming (see, Rev. 19:14a, **"The armies of heaven were following him..."**) but for some reason

God/Jesus Christ has decided to make a point that these 144,000 deserve a special mention. This same concept of 'special or set aside' would hold true when the 144,000 were mentioned in chapter 7:3, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Again, key word is "until". Which I believe are the same 144,000, however, it would also mean that the 144,000 mentioned in Chapter 7 would have been martyred by this point in the seven year tribulation period → just my opinion.

- 5) The last portion of this sentence describes how these 144,000 have been rewarded for their 'faithfulness', NIV, "...who had his name and His Father's name written on their forehead." KJV, "...having His Father's name written in their forehead." Greek translator, "...with the name of His Father having been written on their foreheads." I have provided three translations of this last portion of verse 1 because I believe it is important to understand that the 'reward' that these 144,000 received is something that has already happened; "had" & "having" & "having been", whereas in Rev. 7:3, the word was, "...until we put..." meaning an event yet to come. Again, I believe that the 144,000 in chapter 7 and 14 are the same people/saints with chapter 7 speaking about them before they are "sealed" and chapter 14 speaking about them after they are "sealed".

Also, if you read chapter 7 closely you will find that it is really describing other events that are going to take place on earth and chapter 14 speaks to the specific characteristics or attributes that define this 144,000. Chapter 14 also speaks to other rewards of benefits that this special group, 144,000, is going to receive.

Remember there are some scholars who do not believe that the 144,000 discussed in chapter 7 and 14 are the same people/saints. Again, I do not think they are correct but not sure it matters in the overall scheme of things!

Last, note the wording about the name's, "...who had His name and his Father's name written on their forehead." The first name mentioned is Jesus Christ name and the second name mentioned is "His Father's name." It does not say 'their' Father's name. If you keep reading through verse 5 you will see this is a very

happy occasion, but for some reason Jesus Christ has decided to clarify that he, Jesus Christ is the only true Son of God the Father. Again, not sure what this means if anything!

Note: Keep in mind when reading verses 2 & 3 that they are painting a picture of the sounds and activities that are going on in heaven at this point in time and this picture should be seen as: **'Heaven is Rejoicing at the Lambs Anticipated Return to Planet Earth as KING and LORD'**.

VERSE 2:

Verse 2 is really providing the reader with words that describe what Johns ears are about to hear. John had no way to describe sounds except through words so John is providing the reader with earthly sounds that are similar or as close as possible to the sounds he was hearing. This verse also informs the reader where the sounds are coming from, **"And I hear a sound from heaven → (1) like the roar of rushing waters and (2) like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was (3) like that of harpist playing their harps."** Notice the word **"like"** is used three times in this one verse, also the KJV uses the word **"voice"** in place of the word **"sound"**. I think the word **"sound"** is a better translation but not sure it makes any difference given the context in which it is being used. I think there are three key points to this verse, which are as follows:

- 1) The **"sound" or "voice"** that John is hearing → is coming from heaven, **"And I heard a sound from heaven..."**
- 2) John describes → 'the intensity or volume of' the **"sound/voice"** as what we would consider **high or loud**. Also notice that John uses the word **"like"** (actually twice) in this portion of his sentence, which I believe is letting the reader know that these words have 'great importance'. Also, the word

“like” is letting the reader know that the words John used in describing these sounds are only similar to what he is hearing and not what he is actually hearing, “...like the roar of rushing waters→ and like a loud peal of thunder.”

- 3) I believe that in the last part of verse 2 John is trying to tell the reader that what he was hearing was “loud” and even intense → but ‘very pleasant’ to the one hearing the ‘sounds’, “The sounds I heard was like→ that of harpist playing their harps.”. Also, notice that John uses the word, “like” again in this sentence. The “sound” was not that of “harpist” but would be considered pleasant to the hearer. Verse 3 really is the key to knowing why the “sounds” should be considered ‘very pleasant’, but→ ONLY TO THE SAINTS & ANGELS OF HEAVEN!

VERSE 3:

“And they sang a new song→ before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders→ No one could learn the song except the 144,000→ who had been redeemed from the earth.” Again, the meaning of this verse I believe ties in to Clarence Larkins interpretation of this verse→relating to the location of this scene, which is heaven. To me there are several points within this verse which points to this conclusion→ which we will discuss segment by segment:

- 1) First→ The words, “And they sang a new song...” opens up this verse with the same concept that we have already discussed in Rev. 5:9, “And they sang a new song...” This same concept will be discussed again in Rev. 15:3, “...and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb.” The two concepts that we are discussing is ‘Deliverance’ & ‘Salvation’, which is clearly spelled out in Rev. 15:3. I will provide a quick schedule of how these concepts are threaded throughout the Bible. (This schedule will be very basic but clear.)
- 2) The song of Moses in Exodus Chapter 15 was a song of ‘Deliverance’ sung by the Israelites to the Lord after he/God destroyed the Egyptian army and

saved the lives of the Israelites. This scripture focuses on Gods ability to save his chosen peoples → physical life.

- a) However, there is second song of Moses, which is written in Deuteronomy Chapter 32:1-43. I found this quote on the inter-net which I think explains this → Second Song of Moses very well: **God required the Israelites to learn the Song of Moses in anticipation of their future apostasy in the Promised Land. God knew that, despite His blessings, Israel would turn their backs on Him and follow other gods, bringing divine judgment. When that happened, the song they had learned generations previous would “be a witness . . . against them. . . . When many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them” (Deuteronomy 31:19, 21).** The Song of Moses had both a prophetic purpose (it predicted the nation’s falling away) and a didactic purpose (it taught the faithfulness of God and the consequences of sin).
- b) There is also a third **‘Song of Moses’** → in Psalm’s Chapter 90, which I think should be considered to be more like → **‘A Prayer of Moses in Song’**.

- 3) The concept of **“And they sang a new song...”** found in Rev. 5:9 is the same concept except from a different point of view. Actually chapters 4 & 5 in the Book of Revelations primary purpose is to focus the reader on identifying the **‘spiritual deliverer’** of all of Gods people, both Jew and Gentile. Also, chapters 4 & 5 in the Book of Revelations actually describe **‘why’ Jesus Christ has the authority and power to be this deliverer.** Remember the concept or reason behind **“And they sang a new song...”** is that Gods people were saved or delivered from impending death, whether physical or spiritual.
- 4) Now if you look at the remaining two verse in Revelations where these words are used you will find it is talking about people who had been **“redeemed or victorious”** over sin and the beast. I will list below both of the verses where this concept is used in the Book of revelations: **First** → Rev. 14:3, **“And they sang a new song → before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the**

144,000 who had been redeemed.” ; Second→ Rev. 15:2-3, “And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb.” To me the meaning of those who “sang a new song” is straight forward; it is people who are **‘saved’ by the ‘blood of Jesus Christ’**. When we were discussing the seven churches in chapters 2 & 3 they were called ‘the overcomers’ as defined in Rev. 21:7, “He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

- 5) This same concept is used in the Book of Psalms in many places. I have listed just a few for your review: Psalm 33:3 & 40:3 & 96:1 & 144: 9-15.

NOTE→Remember the entire Book of Revelations is about Jesus Christ and what he has done or is going to do→ **‘for man’ or ‘to man’**.

- 6) I believe the next portion of this verse defines for the reader where this event is taking place, “...before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.” The location is in heaven, actually the throne room of God the Father. This same concept or words have been used by God to clarify for the reader the location of John in his vision all throughout the Book of Revelations. To confirm this go back and read Rev. 4:1-11 & 5:1-14 & 7: 11-17 & 8: 1-5 & 11: 11-19, which all provide similar descriptions of the throne room of God the Father?
- 7) The verse concludes by telling the reader→ the ones ‘who could learn the new song’ and why they could! “No one could learn the song except→ the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.” Again as we said in the first part of this verse→ **the knowledge of how to learn this “new song” only comes through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord→ Salvation.** I am not sure if these 144,000 were martyred but my opinion is that they were martyred. I base this on the words in verse 4, “They were purchased from among men and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb.” Again the issue of martyred or not is only my opinion.

VERSES 4-5:

Verses 4-5 appears to be speaking to the characteristics and attributes that define these 144,000 men, (4) “These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure (virgins). They follow they Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. (5) No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.” There can be no question that this is an exclusive group of men, especially during this period; notice this group is made up of all men and no women. Based on the way these verses define them → **I believe that they are of the ‘Class of Paul’**; 1 Cor. 7:1, “Now for them matter you wrote me about: It is good for a man not to marry.” Now jump to verse 7, “I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gifts from God; one has this gift, another has that.” To get a complete understanding of what Paul was saying you need to read all of 1 Corinthians Chapter 7. **Summary** → what I think Paul was saying is that he could not serve two masters at the 100% level → **God and a wife/family**. Therefore, he chose to only serve one at the 100% level → **the Lord**. I think I should also point out that → If Paul have said he was going to be married and then also serve God at the 100 % level he would have been committing a sin. NOTE: One of the two ‘Institutions’ that God sanctioned or blessed was **‘Marriage/Family’**, the other was the Church.

This process started in Gen. This process began in Gen. 1:27-28 & again in Gen. 2:18-24, Malachi 2:14-15, Eccl. 4:9, Eph. 5:25-33, focus on verse 25, “For the husband, this means love your wife, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.”, Mark 10:9, “Therefore what god has joined together, let no one separate.” Also, God intent was that ‘through marriage’ children would be brought into the world and **‘Should be Considered a GREAT BLESSING from God** → Psalm 127:3, “Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him.”, Proverbs 17:6, “Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”, Gen. 33:5, “Then Esau looked up and saw the woman & the children. ‘Who are these with you?’ he asked. Jacob answered, ‘They are the children God has graciously given your servant’.” Also see, John 16:21 & Matt. 18: 1-3 % Matt. 18:10. Last → The ‘Process of Creating Children’ is

limited to men & women, who are married by God, Gen.1: 26-28, focus on verse 28, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” Also, 9:1, “Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying tot them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth’.”

Therefore, based on scripture; it is my opinion that if a ‘Man’ marries he cannot abdicate his responsibility to his wife & family and then devote 100% of his time and skills to the work of the Lord and → not be in ‘Direct Conflict’ with other ‘Laws, Commands & Decrees’ that God has given man as rules → as to how he is to relate to other people and especially ‘His Wife & Children’ → The results of this would mean he, the man who be committing a sin against his wife & family and God and then saying → He was sinning in order to follow God, which would make it OK. This is not the way God ‘Laws, Commands & Decrees’ work! This is more like ‘Humans’ trying to justify what I call ‘A Poorly Thought Out Choice’.

We can talk more about this in class, but this situation would appear to me to be one of ‘Satan’s Great Deceptions’ → (Truth → Serving God is always good; VS. Lie → Abandoning wife & family is Ok if it is done to serve God). Man cannot sin in the name of God!

However, notice that in the last part of verse seven he acknowledges that this path is not for every man nor should it be.

Other scholars like J. Vernon McGee believe that there are multiple meanings to this sentence, which we all know scripture many times has multiple meanings. The key to his opinion is “...how dreadful it will be in those days...” Jesus Christ himself describes these times in Matthew Chapter 24. I will list some of the key phrases within this chapter that I believe conveys the ‘human distress’ that will exist during these days: “flee to the mountains” & “Let no one in the field go back for his cloak.” & “How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women” & “Pray your flight will not take place in winter...” & “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, on one would survive...” I think you get the idea; ‘these days are days when you will not want to have

anyone you are close to or love in your life because they will more than likely be killed and it will be an awful death and could even be in front of your eyes'.

Last, I believe that there is another potential meaning given the 'times' and 'context' in which these words are spoken. In our study of the 'Seven Letters to the Seven Churches in Asia Minor' we found that one of the big issues which God and Jesus Christ condemned the church for was → accepting the Doctrine of Balaamism; meaning combining the 'Church and State' or 'Spiritual Fornication'. Remember at this point in time the church will have been raptured to heaven and new Christians will be running for their lives from the 'Beast' and his 'False Prophet' who is in charge of the 'World Church' and the 'Beast' is in charge of the 'World Government', which worships the Beast/Satan. I do not think we should be 'dogmatic' about any of these views but I do think it conveys how awful these days will actually be and how 'rare' the men being spoken of in this verse will be! Now I will list the key or primary attributes or characteristics of these 144,000 men.

- 1) "These are those who did not defile themselves with women, → for they kept themselves pure (virgins)." Literal meaning → they never had sexual relations with a woman. I guess today we would have to clarify → this means with men either → this is truly a sad day! Probable → Spiritual meaning, see above; Class of Paul.
- 2) "They follow the Lamb wherever he goes." I think this phrase speaks to the character of these men, steadfastness, unwavering, consistent, completely loyalty and also reverts back to the 'Spiritual Implication' → They only have one master → Class of Paul. Again, you get the idea!
- 3) "They were purchased from among men and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb." To me these words again speak to the fact that these 144,000 men are from the nations of Israel with the key words, "...first fruits to God and the Lamb." Again, all throughout scripture Israel is referenced as the "first fruits", Jer. 2:3, "Israel was holy to the Lord, the first fruits of his harvest." This concept is also spoken of in Romans 11:15-24. The other obvious fact that I think we would have to consider is; the first time this number, 144,000, is mentioned in the Book of Revelation is

chapter 7 verse 1-8 and these men are clearly defined as being from the '12 Tribes of Israel'.

- 4) Verse 5 continues on with listing their characteristics, NIV, **"No lie was found on their mouths; they are blameless."** KJV, **"And in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God."** Remember these words are describing 'men' who were living during the seven year tribulation period. This period will be led by the antichrist and his father → Satan, which is best known as 'the father of all liars and the master of deceit'. Also, the antichrist & Satan/dragon will be supported by their 'enforcer → the false prophet'. I have provided two scriptures which I believe describe the characteristics or attributes of the followers of the antichrist and Satan during this period: John 8:44, **"You belong to your father the devil → and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies he speaks his native language, for he is the father of all liars and the father of lies.** And again in 2 Thess. 2:9-12, **"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."** I think these scriptures make it clear that **'if you believe the lie and are yourself a liar'** you are a child of the antichrist and Satan. Therefore, the reciprocal of this would be → **'if you are not a 'liar' and do not believe his lies (and spread his lies) you are a child of God'**, which is exactly what these men are in Rev. 14:5. I think 1 John 2:20-23, also makes this point very clear, **"But you have an anointing from the Holy One and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth. Who is the liar? The man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist— he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also."**

It is my opinion that the 'lie' being spoken of in all of these verse is the 'lie' that Satan sells and that keeps men from receiving 'salvation' and will keep them out of heaven. Because we know that all men a have lied at one time or another in their life → we know that all men have sinned because:

Romans 3:23 states, "...for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God → and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." First we believe the 'LIE' then we lose the 'FREE GIFT of SALVATION'.

- 5) The very last part of this verse states, NIV, "...They are blameless..." & KJV, "...for they are without fault before the throne of their God." I do not think this means that they are 'sinless' as we know, Romans 3:23, "all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" Given the context and location of these words as related to the rest of these verses; my opinion is that these were men totally dedicated to Jesus Christ and God the Father and they did not give in to Satan's deception and lies. And if you go back to verse 4 "These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure." I believe this speaks to both the 'literal' and 'spiritual' interpretation of verse 4, in terms of how they lived their lives on earth.

However, I believe to correctly understand the words of this entire verse we must first have a clear understanding about the 'context' from which these words are being spoken as they relate to 'How God the Father & His Son, Jesus Christ' are viewing these men. I will try to put 'Their' (thinking?) into some kind of structure that we can understand:

- a) To me the key to understanding this verse is best described in the KJV, "...for they are without fault before the throne of their God...". To get to this point there is a specific process that God laid out, in the Holy Bible, for men and one which all men must follow → if they want to get to this point in their existence → "...for they are without fault before the throne of their God...". The process is as follows:
△ All men have sinned → Romans 3:23, "All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

△ God provided a way for men to redeem themselves to **God the Father**, which the 'Holy Blood of Jesus Christ' → John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

△ God also made the 'Blood of Jesus Christ' a free gift because no 'being' could afford the cost/price, Eph. 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works..." Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

△ All people who ever lived or will ever live in the future fall into two categories → 1) Saved, 2) Unsaved; and the results of this is simple → Saved people's names are written in the 'Book of Life/Lamb's Book of Life' & Unsaved People's names are not → Rev. 20:15, "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." 1 John 1:9; Isa. 44:22.

△ This process is made possible because of Jesus Christ shed blood & He is our **MEDIATOR in Heaven** between us and God, therefore, when God the Father looks at our life He only sees the 'Righteousness' of His **Son → Jesus Christ.** 1 Tim. 2:5, "For there is one God and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..." Heb. 9:15, Heb. 12:24, Heb. 8:6

△ Righteousness → Romans 3:22, "The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

I believe that this verse is stating that these "men" were sons of their God and Father in heaven and of Jesus Christ the Son → and were not sons of the antichrist and Satan. Remember verse 4 defines how special these men really were!

VERSES 6-12 → The Three Angels:

FIRST ANGEL → Verses 6-7:

VERSE 6:

NIV, “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.” KJV, “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven...” And my Greek translator, “And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven...”

- 1) The reason for pointing out the different translations is that the Greek translation for the words, “mid-heaven”→ is the sky or space or atmosphere that surrounds the earth. Also, we know from scripture that from the time of Adam to the beginning of the seven year tribulation period ‘angels’ have been used by God the Father to deliver messages to specific men about specific issues or perform specific task. However, I do not think that the scripture has any mention of angels delivering the ‘good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ’. To me one of the best examples of angels delivering ‘good news’ from the sky or air of the earth would be Luke 2:8-20→ where they announced the birth of Jesus Christ. However, during this seven year period it would appear that angels can also perform the task of delivering the ‘good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ’, which I believe was previously reserved for men.

Before we go any further I would also like to mention that a few scholars believe that this verse should not be taken literally but figuratively. Their view is that this verse speaks to the mass media, like internet and television, cell telephones and these types of devices.

I do not agree with this last view for two primary reasons:

One→ John’s statement is a statement of ‘fact’ not a figurative type statement, “And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven.”

Two→ John always uses the word ‘like’ when he is going to describe something figuratively.

However, we need to keep in mind that ‘mass media’ has been used in the past and will continue to be used to spread the ‘good news of Jesus Christ’ but in these verses→ I do not believe that God the Father is sending an angel to use

'mass media' to spread the 'good news of Jesus Christ', therefore, that is not what is being talked about in this verse.

- 2) "...and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who lived on the earth→ to every nation, tribe, language and people." It is my opinion that this verse should also be taken literally. Remember the church has been raptured to heaven and the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' has begun→ and I think we can say for sure that there will be many people living on the earth at this point in time→ 'Unsaved People', that will need to hear the words of this angel! As a matter of fact, given Satan, the antichrist & false prophet will be in total control of the earth during much of this seven year period→ it may be the only time that they will ever hear the 'Gospel of Jesus Christ' spoken! Most scholars today believe that this is one of Gods attempts (there is more than one during this period) to make sure all men have one last chance to hear the 'Eternal Gospel' and be saved. All throughout the scripture we see God providing man with many chances to be saved before he brings judgment→ and in this case judgment is described in verse 7). God has always loved his creation and I think this is just another example of how much; John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Also, notice the wording in the last part of this verse, "...on the earth→to every nation, tribe, language and people." Every person on this earth regardless of where they live will have at least one last chance→ to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Eternal Gospel) and be saved.

NOTE: I believe that God put this verse in to let men know that He/God is not going to leave the sharing of this information (the most important information any man, woman or child can ever hear) to men to make known to other men, women & children but→ He/GOD will personally take charge and make sure every person on the earth hears the 'Gospel of Jesus Christ/Eternal Gospel' at least one last time. Also, keep in mind that this is one of the prophetic signs, Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom

will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” This same concept is discussed in Mark 13:10.

There is one last point I would like to make before we get to verse 7, notice that the wording in this verse does not actually tell us → how the ‘angel’ delivered the message of the “eternal gospel”, whereas in verse 7 it states “in a loud voice”, just a technical point.

VERSE 7:

Again, note that the angel is now speaking → “He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgement has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’” Remember the focus of verse 6 was → God making sure everyone on the earth hears the ‘gospel of Jesus Christ’ at least once. Now we hear from the “angel” currently speaking the outcome if you reject Gods free offer of salvation. Again, I will break this verse down to make it easier to understand.

- 1) “He said in a loud voice...” Note, the angel is now physically speaking to the inhabitants of the earth, “voice”; whereas in verse 6 we are not told if it was ‘physical speech’ or some other method. My last point is the word “loud” → meaning the type of speech → “voice” was at a level that everyone on earth could hear and probably in heaven as well!
- 2) The next six words of this verse; “Fear God and give him glory...” sets up the logic or reasoning why men should be eager to accept the “eternal gospel”. I think this verse starts out with a hint of why ‘fearing God’ is so important, Psalm 111:10, “The fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.” And I think if you have “wisdom” you will certainly give him/God “glory” because you know how much he loves you and what he did for you, John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...” you get the idea. And I also think we always need to keep in mind that we are speaking about the ‘God of Creation’, Gen. 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

I my opinion verse 6 makes very clear one of Gods 'Primary Attributes' → as it relates to His/Gods relationship with His creation, which is → **How much God Loves His Creation**. However, verse 7 I think provides the reader with and additional **'Attribute of How God Relates to His Creation' → JUSTICE/JUDGMENT'**. Meaning He/God has many 'Attributes' as it relates to His relationship with His creation, which I think is made clear in the last portion of verse 7. **He/God is not just our → creator, who Loves us and has provided us with a way to redeem ourselves to Him for all eternity → Eternal Gospel/Gospel of Jesus Christ → He is also our JUDGE as to where we will spend all of eternity!** Many people seem to forget this most important part of our/humanities relationship with a Holy God.

- 3) Again, the reasoning or logic is simple, it is **"...because the hour of his judgment has come."** At this point in the earth's history the length of time that man has to repent and be saved is somewhere between 0 and 7 years, depending on where you are in the tribulation period. The point being → time is very short for men, women & children to be saved. Also, remember that during this seven year period billions of people are be being killed in the many wars and because of the antichrists harsh treatment of humans in general → **so your time may be 'zero' at any moment.**
- 4) To me the last part of this verse was put in for one simple reason, to make sure the people on the earth at this point in time 'know exactly who' they are hearing from or dealing with, **"Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."** They are hearing directly from the **'Creator' of all things**. There are many places in scripture where this fact is recorded, see Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 for the details of how this happened, but I like this one, 1 Cor.1:16, **"For by him all things were created. Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, where thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."**

Again, it is my opinion that this process will be carried out in some form throughout the entire seven year tribulation period. Just and opinion!

SECOND ANGEL → Verse 8:

VERSE 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.’” The ‘second angel’ is announcing something that is yet future. I view this as a ‘foretelling/prophecy’ of events that will be discussed in more detail in Chapters 17 & 18. It is my opinion that sequentially we are at about the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period and this angel is speaking about something that will happen toward the end of the second half of the seven year tribulation period. Again, meaning it is ‘prophecy’ at this point in time. However, it would appear that heaven is already beginning to celebrate about the destruction of **“Babylon”** and the fact that God is about to reclaim the earth and all of his creation. The ‘Babylon’ event is spelled out in more detail by John in Rev. 16:17-21, **“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air → and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’ → Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake → No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth → The great city split into three parts → and the cities of the nation’s collapsed → God remembered Babylon the Great → and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath → Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found → From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men → And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because it was so terrible.”** Based on the words within this scripture I do not think there can be any doubt that we are talking about ‘Total Destruction’. Also, Revelations chapter 18 is dedicated to providing more details about this event and the related impact on the people of the earth. Also, chapter 17 provides more details about how the ‘relationship’ between the ‘Antichrist’ and the ‘Global Church of the False Prophet’ turns out?

Now I would like to go into some details about this verse and why I believe it carries with it multiple meanings that go all the way back to Gen. 11:1-9, which tells the story of ‘The Tower of Babel’. As I just said this story began in Gen. 11:1-9

and will end in Rev. 20:7-10. As you can see this story covers much of the time that man has been on this earth and will not end until he is leaving this earth for the last time.

I believe this verse has both 'a literal/physical meaning' & 'a spiritual meaning' many of which have 'end times' implications. I will list each below and then we can discuss each in class:

ONE→ The 'Town of Babel' was man's first attempt to create a **→ World Economy, Political System & Government** → with both literal and spiritual implication. Again, Genesis 11:1-9 tells the story of the 'Tower of Babel' but if you focus on verse 4, I think it really speaks to the issue of what men were trying to accomplish, Gen. 11:4, "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city → with a tower that reaches to the heavens → so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole world'." It appears that there are three specific rebellions against God in this verse:

- 1) "...with a tower that reaches to the heavens..." Man has always wanted to be like God and be in the heavens. (Note: Most of man's gods either come from or reside in the heavens/outer space; also, man has always had a strong desire to study and even be in the heavens → space travel). Keep in mind that whether it was ungodly nations or Israel's false gods they always built their 'alters' to their false gods in 'high places'. Ungodly Nations → Num. 33:51-52, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into Canaan, drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you. Destroy all their carved images and their case idols, and demolish all their high places.'" Another example, Deut. 12:2, "Destroy all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and on under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.'" Now the nation of Israel → 1 Kings 11: 7-8, "On the hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.'" (Note in this example Solomon was not the 'spiritual leader' in the home): Another

example, 2 kings 17:10-11, “They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. At every high place they burned incense, as the nations who the Lord had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger.”

- 2) “...so that we may make a name for ourselves...” This portion of the verse appears to be out and out rebellion on many levels; 1) man wanted his ‘name’ to be equal to or above Gods; 2) very descriptive of man’s ‘sinful prideful nature’; 3) out right refusal to ‘worship’ the God of creation and instead built monuments to man and his ability/created things. These are just a few and there are many verses which support this ‘rebellion’ in both the Old & New Testament.

TWO→ The ‘Tower of Babel’ was the first recorded attempt of man, after the flood→ to challenge God for the title of ‘God’→ spiritual implication. We know that Adam and Eve were the first people to openly ‘rebel’ against God’s commandments Gen. 2:17, “...but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge”;

Rebellion→ Gen.3: 1-7, focus on 6b, “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

Separate Point→ About Gen. 3:6:

As a side note I would like to point out several facts or issues as it relates to ‘sin’ whether it was during the time of Adam and Eve or today.

Fact One→ *Eve had to put herself in a position where she could see the fruit, when she knew it could lead to trouble, “When the woman saw the fruit...” If people put themselves in a bad or sinful position they are rarely a match for Satan’s enticement. Remember → Satan is the ‘Great Deceiver’ and the Father of all Liars!*

Fact Two→ *Eve rationalized that the fruit was necessary for physical existence, “...the fruit of the tree was good for food...” Again, people always rationalize → that they need or deserve what Satan is offering even though God forbids it and has provided other solutions to meet your needs.*

Fact Three → Satan used Eve's physical senses to entice her, *"...and pleasing to the eye..."* Men and women both have five physical senses and → **Satan has always used all five of them to 'deceive' both men and women since this first sin!** And keep in mind Satan is better at this than you are at stopping him!

Fact Four → Both men and women throughout all time periods have fallen for Satan's deception of how they can obtain **'real knowledge'**, *"...also desirable for gaining wisdom..."* → **real knowledge only comes from God, their Creator.** 1 Tim. 6: 20-21

THREE → The **'Tower of Babel'** is viewed as → **'The Beginning or the Mother of all Idolatry, World Wide'** → spiritual implication. Most scholars believe that all **'false religions worldwide'** had their roots at the → **'Tower of Babel'**. I think the interesting part of this event is that → **during the last half of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' they (all) will come back to together as → 'A One World religion'**.

FOUR → The **'Tower of Babel'** was → **'The Beginning of Spiritual Fornication'**; the combining of the church (religion) & state (government). Remember God's words to the church in Pergamum, Rev. 2:14-15, *"Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have people there who hold to the teachings of Balaam...Likewise you also have those who hold to the teachings of the Nicolaitans."* ; → spiritual implication. NOTE: **Nicolaitans** → What made this group known as the Nicolaitans so wicked that even Jesus Christ spoke about them with great disdain, even hate: Rev. 2: 6b? The Nicolaitans were a group of men in the early church that wanted to establish a **'holy order' or 'priestly order'** of men that would come between man and God. **FACT:** This was & is the primary thing that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ eliminated. I think this was also an attempt of traditional Jews to re-instate their previous method of worship & and → **'continue to remain in power'**. This **'Doctrine'** was rejected by the Church in Ephesus but was later embraced by the **'Church in Pergamum'** in 325AD at the **'Council of Nicea'** → this was the beginning of the **'Holy Roman Church'**, which led the known world in to the **'Dark Ages'** and later became known as the

Catholic Church of today. The other '**False Doctrine**' mentioned was that of '**Balaamism**', which most scholars define as → '**Spiritual Fornication**' or '**Idol Worship**' which is normally accompanied with '**Sexual Perversion**'. See the Book of Numbers Chapters 22-25 → Balak king of Moab.

FIVE → The city of Babylon was built on the site of the '**Tower of Babel**' and will actually be rebuilt on this same site. Sudam Husain actually began the process of rebuilding this city before he was overthrown & killed → **spiritual & literal or physical implication.**

SIX → The city of Babylon was the center of the '**First World Empire**' and it will also be the center of the '**Last World Empire**' → that will exist just prior to the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. I think it is also important to keep in mind that these two '**World Empires**' will be the only true '**Human World Empires**' up until this point in the earth's history, as all the others were inferior to these two: 1) **The Tower of Babel**, 2) **The 'World Empire of the antichrist During the Last 3 ½ years of the Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

NOTE: There have been other great empires mentioned in the Bible but they were actually localized to the area & people in or around Jerusalem/Israel or what we today call the middle east → **Egypt** → **Assyria** → **Babylon** → **Medo-Persia** → **Greek** → **Roman** → **Revived Roman Empire (first 3 ½ yrs. of the seven year tribulation period)** All of these Empires should be considered Great in their own right or time but → **were not Global**, which is what the '**Tower of Babel & The antichrist empire of the last 3 ½ yrs. will be**'.

The '**First Babylonian Empire**' had as its capital or center the city of Babylon → This empire was the purest and most powerful of the four empires listed in the Book of Daniel, Dan. 2:23-39a, "You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beast of the fields and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours." **But this empire was not Global!**

Again, the 'Last World Empire' will have as its religious center the rebuilt city of Babylon → It will be the world empire of the 'antichrist' and it will also rule the entire world, Rev. 13:7b, "And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation." The destruction of this great city is discussed in Revelations chapters 17 & 18.

Now a section by section analysis:

- 1) "A second angel followed and said..." This is a second angel speaking and he is 'second' in this sequence of speaking angels.
- 2) "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great..." This second angel is prophesying a future event which is the physical destruction of the rebuilt city of Babylon. It also carries with it a spiritual prophecy that predicts the 'spiritual' destruction of the 'global church' of the false prophet. This global church and false prophet is discussed in the last half of chapter 13. Also notice that the word "Fallen" is used twice by God I believe to make sure the reader understands this is a big deal or major event.
- 3) The next part of this verse states, "...which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adultery." Which I believe carries with it both physical and spiritual implications.
 - a) Physical implications → Revelation 13: 11-18 tells us that the antichrist and false prophet will make → everyone on the earth take the 'mark of the beast' or they will not be able to 'buy or sell': focus on verses 17, "...so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."
 - b) Spiritual implications → The spiritual impact of this statement is written in many places within the Holy Bible but for convenience all you need to do is look at the words of the → 'Third Angle', Rev. 14:9b-10a, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on their forehead or on the hand, he too, will drink of the wine of God's fury..."
- 4) Summary → The actual event being discussed in this verse is recorded in Revelation Chapter 18; however focus on verses 2-3, which are almost the same exact words. Note they do expand what was happening on planet earth during this period, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has

become the home of demons and a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” In the Old Testament this same issue is discussed in Jer. 25:15 & Jer. 51:7.

To me the issue is very clear. During this time period Satan and his false prophet will control the buying and selling of everything on the planet and if you do not have his mark you will not be able to buy or sell to support your family and will eventually starve to death, die from the elements or Satan will have you and your family put to death. → However, the real issue for people during this period will be are you willing to physically die for your faith on this earth or spiritually die while you are still living on this earth but spend all of eternity separated from God and in hell? That is the real question?

Conclusion:

One→ There will be physical→ **“adultery/fornication”** between the earthly or physical church and the world government lead by the antichrist/Satan. To me this will be the culmination of the **‘Doctrine of Balaamism’** that entered the church during the church period we define by the **‘Letter to the Church at Pergamum’**: 312-606 AD.

Two→ There will be spiritual→ **“adultery/ fornication”** between the hearts/souls of the people of the earth and **‘spirit of the antichrist/Satan’**→ **‘A False god’**. Again, to me this is the culmination of the **‘Doctrine of Balaamism’** that entered the church during the church period we define by the **‘Letter to the Church at Pergamum’**: 312-606 AD.

Three→ Also, I think it is worth noting that it is my opinion that this→ **‘Issue of both Physical & Spiritual Fornication’** was actually engineered or led by very **‘sinful & evil men’ which were called**→ **‘Clergy’**. Satan tried to bring this doctrine into the church as early as the **‘Church Period of Ephesus’ (70- 170AD)** but failed, however, he/Satan was successful in bring this doctrine in to the church during the **‘Church Period of Pergamum’**, (312-606 AD). This doctrine was known as the

'Doctrine of the Nicolaitans' & actual entered the church in 325 @ the Council of Nicea.

Again the people of the earth at this point in time will be aware of what they are doing; therefore, this is out an out 'rebellion' → 'the worshiping false gods'. The attitude of these people can be seen in Rev. 16:9b & 11b, also Rev. 9:20-21 and Rev.6: 16-17.

THIRD ANGEL → VERSES 9-12:

The message of this "third angel" is split into three parts. I have provided a brief overview below to assist in beginning our study of the "Third Angel".

One → verse 9b; identification of the sin involved,

- 1) **Sin Defined: verse 9b** → "...If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand..."

Two → verse 10-11; the judgment or wrath that God will implement on people who commit this 'sin' in 'Number One' above,

- 1) **Judgment Defined** → (verse 10) "...he too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. (11) And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Three → verse 12; this is a call for faithful "endurance" on the part of the saints living during this period. God knows it will be an awful period of time but is encouraging his 'saints' to act like Paul: 2 Tim. 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

1) **Endurance defined**→ (verse 12) **“This calls for patience endurance on the part of the saints who OBEY God’s COMMANDS and REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS.”**

Also, I believe that when reading these three verses (9-12) the reader needs to keep in mind that they carry→ **A Double-Edged Meaning**, depending on which group you are in, which I will explain below.

First Group→ which are **‘Defined as Unsaved’**→ This group of people committed the **‘SIN’** as defined in verse 9b, therefore, the **‘JUDGMENT DEFINED’** in verses 10-11 will be implemented on them per Gods words. Obviously they did not have **“patience endurance”** as defined in verse 12 and **“...obey God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”**

Second Group→ which are **‘Defined as SAINTS’**→ This group of people→ **‘DID NOT Committee the SIN’** as defined in verse 9b, therefore, the **‘JUDGMENT DEFINED’** in verses 10-11→ **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED ON THEM PER GODS WORD.’** Just as obvious is the fact that→ **They Did Have Patience ENDURANCE & they did “...obey God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”**

CONCLUSION→ The bottom line is this **‘Second Group’** will spend eternity with God the Father & the Son, Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit in the New Jerusalem and Heaven & Earth.

Whereas, the **‘First Group’**→ **will spend eternity in HELL with Satan, the antichrist & false prophet and all of the rest on the unsaved people who ever lived.**

The reason I put this section in was that I think it is worth noting that even during the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’** God will still be providing men with→ **‘FREEWILL’** (just as He has since the time of Adam & Eve) to make the **CORREECT DECISION** in His offering to all men **‘SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST’**→ **“...obey Gods commands...”**. Just some more of my opinions!

Verse 9:

“A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice → ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on his hand...”

I will break down verse 9 into its basic sub-sets to make it easier to understand, as follows:

THE SIN →

- 1) **“A third angel followed them...”** Meaning the next part of John’s vision after ‘second angel’.
- 2) **“...and said in a loud voice...”** Meaning the angel is making an important announcement. This is indicated by the use of the word, **“loud”**. Also, it appears this **‘announcement’** is being made to both the **‘inhabitants of the earth & heaven’**. Meaning both humans & angelic beings!
- 3) **“If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand.”** Again this part of these verses is defining the specific **‘sin’** that will bring Gods judgment and wrath. The rules are simple → **and use no symbolism**; they are very straight forward, therefore, **men cannot later claim that they were confusing or the rules were too complicated to understand**. Again, if you re-read this verse in its basic sub-sets, I think you will find God makes the actions that men will have taken to draw His **‘Judgment & Wrath’** → **Very Clear**.
 - a) **“If anyone...”** Meaning any created being → human or angelic
 - b) **“...worships the beast...”** Meaning → **Rejects Gods free gift to pay for their sins → The Shed Blood of His Son Jesus Christ → and bows the knee to Satan/antichrist & false prophet → and worships/accepts them as god**
 - c) **“...and his image...”** Not many scholars differentiate between the words **“...worship the beast...”** & **“...and his image...”** However, I believe that God put both of these **‘identifiers’** in this verse to provide the reader with both → **‘The Spiritual & Physical Side of Worship’** → with the words **“...worship the beast...”** being more **‘Spiritual’** & **“...and his image...”** being more **‘Physical’**.

d) **'...and receive his mark on the forehead or on the hand.'** Meaning the people who possess these **"marks"** are → **making a statement before 'Men & God' that they are children of Satan & have rejected Gods free offer of Salvation.** Again, I would view this as a → **Second Physical Action** that could be taken by **'any human'** to show the **'World & Heaven' that their god is Satan → and not the God of Creation.** I think the primary reason for the differentiation between → **"...worshipping...his image..."** & **"...receiving his mark..."** is → Remember the **"image of the beast"** is located in → The rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and not everyone on the earth will be able to visit and worship the 'image of the beast' because of its location (keep in mind travel will be very limited because of Gods Judgments). Therefore, God has allowed Satan during this **'Tribulation Period'** to develop a **'second method'** for men to outwardly show other men & heaven that they are → **'A Child of Satan'**. And this **'second method'** can be done from anywhere in the world, therefore, not requiring a physical trip to Jerusalem.

Verse 10-11:

THE JUDGMENT →

(10) **"...he, too, will drink of the wine of Gods fury → which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath → He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. (11). And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worshiped the beast and his image → or for anyone who received the mark of his name."**

I will not requote verses 10-11 again, but I believe it is a good description of **'hell and eternal separation from God'**. And the last sentence in verse 11, restates for the reader the **'SIN'** (already stated in verse 9b) that they did to receive this judgment, **"...those who worshiped the beast and his image, or for anyone who received the mark of his name."** Again, remember we talked about this concept

before; at this point in time I believe that you are either 'marked by Satan' or you have been 'marked (sealed) by God'. Fence setting is not allowed, you are either a child of God or a child of Satan; except for children under the age of accountability. I will break these verses down into their basic sub-sets to make it easier to discuss:

- 1) "...he, too..." is referencing the words/person identified in verse 9, "If anyone...". Meaning the "...he, too..." in this opening statement is again referencing 'Any Human or Angelic Being' that has committed the 'SIN' identified in verse 9b.
- 2) "...will drink of the wine of Gods fury..." To me these → eight words simply mean that God is going to → judge these men identified by 'Satan's Mark' for the sin that they have committed. And the rest of verse 10 all of 11 provide the reader with 'Additional Details or Descriptions' → about this Judgment.
- 3) More details about Gods Judgment/Fury/Wrath → "...which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath..." I believe that there are several words within this scripture that provides the reader with → 'The Intent God Had When He Made This Statement' which are as follows:
 - a) NIV: "...which has been poured..." Greek Translator: "...having been..." Meaning, this decision by God, of Judgment should be viewed in what we would call, the → 'PAST TENSE'. Therefore, if you are guilty of this sin → "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand..." Then Gods Judgment has already been decided for you and the outcome will be → You will spend eternity in Hell!
 - b) NIV: "...full strength..." Greek Translator: "...mixed undiluted..." Which to me indicates 'MAXIMUM JUDGMENT' or 'God WII BE APPLYING HIS FULL/MAXIMUM JUDGMENT ON THIS SPECIFIC GROUP?'
 - c) "...into the cup of His wrath..." In this portion of this verse I believe God is continuing to tie together a 'Theme of Symbolism' that He has been using to convey His message of Judgment to all humanity. Throughout the entire Bible God has used the concept of 'WINE' to indicate 'SIN' & the concept of the 'CUP' as Gods method of 'APPLYING HIS

WRATH/JUDGMENT for SIN'. The Old Testament has many verse that speak to this issue: Jer. 25:15-17, "This is what the Lord , the God of Israel, said to me, **'Take from My hand this cup filled with the wine of My wrath, and make all the nations to whom I sent you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send them'.**" Also see, Ps. 75:8, Jer. 51:7, Zech. 12:2-3, Jer. 49:12, Lam. 4:21, Hab. 2:16 In the New Testament the Book of Revelation also makes this point very clear in a variety of places → **First**; the **'Second Angel'** in Rev. 14: 8 makes this statement; **"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening WINE of her adulteries."** → **Second**; comes our verse Rev. 14:19 → **Third**; Comes the entire last part of Chapter 14, verse 14-20, which uses this same **'Symbolism of Wine Making'** → to describe the **'Harvesting of the Earth, Ending with Great Battle of Armageddon'**, which is for sure speaking about **Gods Judgment & Wrath**. This same concept is again repeated in Rev. 16:19 & Rev. 18: 6. There are many other verses throughout the Bible that speak to this concept but I think you get the idea.

To me it appears that with the beginning of this sentence; **"He will be tormented..."** God through John's words now appears to be changing the **'Primary Subject'** of the discussion. In the **'First Part'** of verse 10, God was providing the reader with a description of → What I would call the **'INTENISTY or MAGITUDE of this Judgment'** and it is also from → **The Implementers Side of the Judgment → GODS SIDE of the EQUATION.**

Now in the last part of verse 10 and 11, God through John's words begins to provide the reader with **'Specific Details'** about this Judgment, except this time it will be from → **'The One Receiving these Judgment; Side of the Equation' → The Sinners Side'.**

I will now begin an analysis of verses 10b & 11, broken into its basic sub-sets:

- 1) **"He will be tormented..."** Based on these words I do not think anyone would think these four words could be describing anything but → **Judgment**

& Suffering. Remember the **'Being'** that we are talking about **"He"** is **'The Sinner'** being described in verse 9b. And one of the best verse that I know of, which can provide you with some type of **'UNDERSTANDING'** as to the **'Real Meaning'** of these four words can be found in Rev. 20: 10, **"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."** You will be in → **Hell for all Eternity** with all of the other → **'Unsaved Humans & Evil Angelic Beings'**. I would not think anyone would want to be in this position!

- 2) **"...with burning sulfur..."** To me this is a further description of the **'Type of Torment'** they sinners will receive in hell. Also, it is my opinion that God used these words **"...burning sulfur..."** for at least two reasons:
- a) **One** → If I understand it → The **Burning of Human Flesh** will generate one of the most **'Intense'** forms of pain a human body can receive. Therefore, I would assume God wanted to plant this **'Word Picture in Our Minds'** as a deterrent to man sinning! Another words → You have been told/Warned.
- b) **Two** → I think God is keeping His words consistent so that man can never say → **You were trying to 'Confused Me with → 'YOUR WORDS'**. God has consistently used the same words to **'DESCRIBE HELL'**: One of the best places in scripture to see this is again, Rev. 20:10a, **"And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur..."** However, you can also see this same type of description in Rev. 20:14 & Rev. 21:8 & Rev. 20:15 & Rev. 19:20 & Matt. 18:8 & Matt. 13:42 → There are also verse that I would call **'Companion Verses'** that either allude to or add more details to the words **"lake of fire or burning sulfur"**, which are as follows: Mark 9:47-48 & Matt. 25:46 & 2 Thess. 1: 8-9 & Matt. 13:42 & 2 Peter 2:4 & Mal. 3:2 & Matt. 25:41
- 3) **"...in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."** The meaning of these words appear to be very straight forward → **He/God is telling all 'Created Beings'**, whether they were created for heaven or earth. That all **Unsaved Humans & Fallen Angels** will be → **Sentenced & Begin Their**

Judgment Before all Saved Humans & Angels that did not fall to sin. I think this follows the **'Biblical Concept of Supremacy of Power'**:

a) Bow the Knee before **Jesus Christ/God**→ Phil. 2:10-11, **"...that at the name of Jesus ever knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."**

Note: God also made this promise to the **Nation of Israel**→ Isa. 60:14, **"The sons of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel."** In this specific scripture quote I believe that we are talking about the time period starting with the **'Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ'**.

b) Bow the knee before the **'Beings that are Gods'** (both human & heavenly)→ Rev. 3:9, This is the promise that Jesus Christ made to the saints in the **'Church of Philadelphia'** if they→ **'remained strong until the end'**, **"I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you . Since you have kept my command to endure patiently. I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."**

4) Begins verse 11, which continues listing attributes or further details about Gods Judgment: **"And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever."**

I think there are two points to these words, which are:

a) God is again taking the reader back to the→ **Concept of 'The Lake of Fire or Burning Sulfur'** when He used the word **"smoke"**. He—God also then connects the word **"smoke"** with the concept of **"...their torment..."** which to me alludes to the **"burning"** of→ **human flesh!** Just my opinion.

b) I think in the last five words of this section God is defining for us the **'Time Period Involved with this TORMENT/JUDGMENT'**, **"...rises for ever and ever."** Which I interpret as meaning this **"TORMENT"** or

Judgment of → 'The Lake of Fire or Burning Sulfur' → (feeling like burning flesh) will last for all of eternity.

5) The last sentence in verse 11 continues to provide the reader with additional details about the attributes of this Judgment: "There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or anyone who receives the mark of his name." I will break this sentence down into its basic sub-points, as follows:

- a) "There is no rest day or night..." To the best of my understanding there will not be any "day or night" in Hell or even heaven for that matter. I think God put these words in to allow the reader to understand that this → Judgment → "TORMENT" will be → CONTINUOUS; meaning 'Not Stop for All of Eternity'. God knows people today need to have things explained to them in 'word concepts' that they can visualize, thereby gaining a more detail understanding. And that is actually what this is → Men today can understand something if it is explained in 'Human or Physical Concepts' → they can understand a 24 hour day better than the word 'Eternity', as we have no frame of reference for the word 'Eternity'. God tries to make things as simple as He can!
- b) "...for those who worship the beast and his image, or anyone who received the mark of his name." If you go back and re-read verses 9 & 10 you will find that verse 11 is a repeat of this same 'Concept of Sin & Judgment'. Verse 9b, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on their forehead or hand, he too, will drink of the wine of God's fury..." Therefore, I think we can say for sure that God is really trying to make sure men clearly understand this issue or the rules. Because 'Their Eternal Destiny is at Stake', and → He does not want any to perish! Last, I think God ends this section, words from → 'The Third Angel' with a 'Clear Definition of What Constitutes Sin and What the Judgement Will Be → If You Commit This Sin'.

Verse 12:

THE JUDGMENT →

“This calls for patient endurance→ on the part of the saints→ who obey God’s commandments and→ remain faithful to Jesus.” Again, as I stated in our introduction to these verses I believe that Paul defines in words what God was telling these people in 2 Tim. 4:7, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”** This is a **‘Primary Biblical Concept’** that **‘EVERY BEING (human or angelic) must try with all their heart to do→ every second of every day → ‘If they want to STAY IN GODS WILL’.** However, to accomplish this **“...obey God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”** during this **‘Seven Year Period’** will be the hardest it has ever been since the creation of the world.

I have re-printed the words we used to discuss the ‘general review or meaning’ of verses 9-12, which is as follows:

I believe that when reading these three verses (9-12) the reader needs to keep in mind that they carry→ **A Double-Edged Meaning,** depending on which group you are in, which I will explain below.

First Group→ which are **‘Defined as Unsaved’**→ This group of people committed the **‘SIN’** as defined in verse 9b, therefore, the **‘JUDGMENT DEFINED’** in verses 10-11 will be implemented on them per Gods words. Obviously they did not have **“patience endurance”** as defined in verse 12 and **“...obey God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”**

Second Group→ which are **‘Defined as SAINTS’**→ This group of people→ **‘DID NOT Committee the SIN’** as defined in verse 9b, therefore, the **‘JUDGMENT DEFINED’ in verses 10-11→ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED ON THEM PER GODS WORD.’** Just as obvious is the fact that→ **They Did Have Patience ENDURANCE & they did “...obey God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”**

CONCLUSION→ The bottom line is this **‘Second Group’** will spend eternity with God the Father & the Son, Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit in the New Jerusalem and Heaven & Earth.

Whereas, the 'First Group' → will spend eternity in HELL with Satan, the antichrist & false prophet and all of the rest on the unsaved people who ever lived.

The reason I put this section in was that I think it is worth noting that even during the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' God will still be providing men with → 'FREEWILL' (just as He has since the time of Adam & Eve) to make the CORRECT DECISION in His offering to all men 'SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST' → "...obey Gods commands...". Just some more of my opinions!

Now I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets as these will tie into verse 13.

Verse 12 → "This calls for patient endurance → on the part of the saints → who obey God's commands → and remain faithful to Jesus."

- 1) "This calls for patient endurance..." Again, I think these words were put in by God to for two specific reasons:
 - a) NOTIFY the saints of this period that the suffering would be intense → "endurance"
 - b) Also, NOTIFY the saints of this period that "patients" would be required for them to receive the REWARD that they all were looking for → Biblical Concept → Your reward is ASSURED but it will be received based on Gods timeline → not mans; see verse 13.
- 2) "...on the part of the saints..." These words simply define who it is that must have "...patient endurance..."
- 3) In this next set of words → "...who obey God's commands → and remain faithful to Jesus." God appears to break down, in to two parts, what is required on the part of the "saints" if they want to

meet HIS/GOD's Requirement of → "...patient endurance..." I have no idea why God broke this statement down into two parts, as they seem to me to be saying basically the same thing; however, I think His reasons will be made plain to the saints living during this 'Seven Year Period'. Just my opinion!

Verse 13:

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say → 'Write: 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'."

I think God put in the words of verse 13 to offer 'Words of Assurance' to the saints living during this awful 'Seven Year Period'. I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets so that we can better analyze its meaning.

- 1) "Then I heard a voice from heaven say..." I think the word "Then..." is a clear indicator that this is the next thing that John "heard" in his vision. We do not know if John saw anything but we do know he "heard a voice" words being spoken and that they were coming from "heaven". Also, we do not know if John was in heaven or on earth observing these events/words! All of this being said, I think the primary importance of these words is → That they are coming from "heaven" & are being directed at a 'Specific Group of People', which will be clearly defined in the remainder of this verse.
- 2) "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord → from now on." These words "from heaven" begin to define the ones being spoken to in the first part of this verse. This, what I call → A Special "Blessing" → and is being directed → at a specific group of saints → "...the dead who die in the Lord from now on." Again, I see this as God providing 'Words of Assurance' to

the saint that will be living during this → **'Very Harsh Seven Year Period'**. Most scholars only provide a basic interpretation of these words as I have done above. However, I believe Clarence Larkin in his book 'The Book of Revelation'

- 3) **"Yes, says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them'."** To me these words should be viewed as a continuation of the thought process of verse 13, which to me should be viewed as a three parts statement, as follows:
- a) **A Statement/Promise being made from heaven** → **"Then I heard a voice from heave, say..."**
 - b) **Identifies who is being spoken to** → **"Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."**
 - c) Identifies the last two points of this verse: **FIRST** → **Identifies Who is making this statement/promise** → **"Yes, Says the Spirit..."** It is my assumption that this is the **"Spirit" of God or 'The Holy Spirit'**. **SECOND** → **Identifies 'What is Being Promised'** → **"...they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."** Meaning their **"labor & deeds"** on earth will **"follow them"** to heaven → and **"labor & deeds"** were defined in verse 12 → **"...who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."**

Last, I have again used the words out of Clarence Larkins book 'The Book of Revelation' because I think it provides us with a very concise and accurate meeting of verse 13. **"This is blessedly true of all saints but refers here to those who die after the False Prophet has issued the command that all who will not worship the 'Image of the Beast shall be killed', Rev, 13:15. This is settled by the word HENCEFORTH. ("...from now on..." in the NIV) This warning is given for the benefit of those who in that day shall be tempted to compromise with evil in order to preserve their lives. → Better to live and live and reign with Christ a 1,000 years, then with the Antichrist 3 ½ years. (*) This special class of dead who 'DIE IN THE LORD' will be blessed because they will be delivered from the trials and suffering of the Great Tribulation, and will receive the 'MARTYR'S CROWN'**

Rev. 2:10, and they shall rest from their labors of stemming the tide of iniquity of those days, and their works follow with them (R. V.). During the 'Great Tribulation' they that are loyal to God have no prospect before them but martyrdom, → hence the need at this time of a special message of blessing to those who are faithful until death. **What a contrast between the 'Blessed Dead', and those who have the 'Mark of the Beast'. The former will rest from their labors, while the latter shall not rest day or night.**"

Clarification: From the (*) to the end of the paragraph Clarence Larkin is saying that it will be better for Christians to be killed (martyred) instantly by the **'image of the beast'** at the middle of the tribulation period or the 3 ½ point than to have to go through the last 3 ½ years because there will be only pain and suffering on earth for these saints. Whereas if you are **'martyred'** at the middle of the tribulation period, then for the next 3 ½ years you will **"rest from their labors"** as well as, receive the **'Martyr's Crown'**.

I think this verse combined with the words of Clarence Larkin paint a pretty harsh & grim picture for Christians during the last half of the seven year tribulation period. We should thank God every day that we will not be part of this **'Group of Saints'**.

HOW TO INTERPERT OR IDENTIFY → HOW EACH 'ANGEL' FITS INTO VERSES 6-20

Before we go any further I would like to outline verses 6-20, in terms of → 'How Each Angel Fits into INTERPERTING verses 6-20. Before we start I will tell you this process stretches from verse 6 to 20 → is very interwoven and → may skip many verses before it re-connects → and it has TWO separate Tracks → So let's get started!

TRACK ONE → Major Event or Action:

This will be a discussion of or outline of → the **'Major Event or Action'** involved within these 15 verses; 6-20, which are as follows:

FIRST EVENT or ACTION→

Includes verses 6-7→ And begins with the introduction of the→**First Angel: Proclaiming the Eternal Gospel.** Completes Gods promise to Proclaim the Gospel to ever corner of the earth, before the return of His Son, Jesus Christ. Also, I think it is would noting verse 6 begins with the words, **“Then I saw another angel...”** and as best I can tell these five words mean; since John last saw an angel, which happened in chapter 10, verse 1, **“Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven.”** This would be a four chapter jump? Remember INTERLUDE CHAPTERS!

SECOND EVENT or ACTION→

Includes verse 8→ Introduces the→ **Second Angel: Proclaiming the Fall of Babylon;** **“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great...”** This is the prophecy about an event yet future at the time it is being spoken!

THIRD EVENT or ACTION→

This ‘Event or Action’ is broken into two sections: Section One, includes verses 9-11 and→ Section Two, includes verses 12-13.

Section One: verses 9-11→ Introduces the→ **Third Angel: Proclaiming the Judgment that Men will Receive that Worship the Beast;** **“...he, too, will drink of the wine of Gods fury...”** This is a simple: **cause→ those who worship the beast & effect→ judgment,** situation.

Section Two: verses 12-13→ Speaks to the **‘saints/saved people living on the earth during this period;** **“...patient endurance→ blessed...”** This is also a simple: **cause→ those who have “patient endurance” & effect→ “blessed”.**

FOURTH EVENT or ACTION→

Again, this ‘Event or Action’ is broken into three→ sub-sets & cover verses 14-20. I use the words ‘sub-sets’ because these verses, 14-20, all speak to or address one **‘Major Event→ Judgment’** that is spread over the entire **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’.** I will explain as follows:

First Sub-Set: Includes verses 14-16→ I equate these verses to the **'Seven Seal Judgments'** which are implemented by Jesus Christ in Revelation Chapters 6 & 8, verses 1-5: compare to our verse 14→ **"like a son of man"**. These are the first seven judgments of the tribulation period & the **'First Harvest of the Earth'** during this end times period.

Second Sub-Set: Includes verses 17-19→ I equate these verses to the **'Seven Trumpet Judgments & the Seven Bowl Judgments'** which are implemented by **'God the Father'** in Revelation Chapter→ 8, verses 6-13 & Chapter 9, verses 1-21 & Chapter 10, verses 15-19. These 14 judgments are ever increasing in severity & harshness!

Third Sub-Set: Includes verse 20→ I equate this verse to the **'Battle of Armageddon'**, which will be fought at the end of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period between→ Satan and the armies of the nations of the earth→ and Jesus Christ and the armies of heaven, Rev. 19:11-21.**

This is a summary of the **'Four Major Events or Actions'** described in Revelation Chapter 14, verses 6-20. They should be viewed as either a→ foretelling or→ historical fact of events that have→ or will happen→ during the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

Event One→ Timing of event unknown

Event Two→ Timing of event, yet future

Event Three→ Timing of event would appear to cover the entire **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**, with **'HEAVY'** focus on the last half of **the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

Event Four→ Timing is split into three separate points in time: **The First & Half of the Second Sub-Sets**→ Seal & Trumpet Judgments; would be **'past'** at the **'Mid-Point'** of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**. The other half of the **'Second Sub-Set'**→ Bowl Judgments & the **'Third Sub-Set'**→ Battle of Armageddon would all be **'yet future'** as of the **Mid-Point of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

TRACK TWO→HOW WHICH ANGEL RELATES TO WHICH MAJOR EVENT OR ACTION:

This will be a discussion or outline of → How Which Angel Relates to Which Major Event or Action that are being discussed in Revelation Chapter 14, verses 6-20. In this outline of which angel is associated with which event or action I will also identify when the one being spoken off or introduced is → **Jesus Christ**. Also, keep in mind in this discussion the next sequential event or action may skip several verses. I will outline where each angel fits into our 'Major Events or Action' schedule listed above.

First Angel → The 'First Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (verses 6-20) is associated with → **'Proclaiming the Eternal Gospel'** → verse 6-7.

Second Angel → The 'Second Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (verses 6-20) is associated with → **'Fallen is Babylon the Great.'** → Verse 8.

Third Angel → The 'Third Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (6-20) is associated with → **'Proclaiming the Judgment that Men will Receive that Worship the Beast'** → verses 9-11

Voice From Heaven → There is no angels involved with the **"voice from heaven"** encouraging the saints on earth to → **"have patient endurance"** and their reward would be heavenly → **"blessings"** → verses 12-13.

The Fourth Heavenly Being → That is Mentioned or Introduced in our reference scripture (6-20) is → **Jesus Christ**, **"like a son of man"**. Jesus Christ is listed as the one that is the **'First Harvester'** of the earth, **"...and a sharp sickle in his hand."** verses 14 & 16 → Associated with Seal Judgments.

Fourth Angel → The 'Fourth Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (6-20) is associated with → **The One Communicating the 'Command from God the Father to His Son Jesus Christ'** → **'Let the First Judgments Begin'** → verse 15. This would be the 'Seal Judgments' and should be associated with the **'First Harvesting of the Earth'**.

Fifth Angel→ The 'Fifth Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (6-20) is associated with→ **'The Second Harvest of the Earth'**; verse 17, **"...and he too had a sharp sickle..."**→ And is Associated with the **'Seven Trumpet & Seven Bowl Judgments'**. Remember during this period in time→ the harvest was a multi-step process.

Sixth Angel→ The 'Sixth Angel Mentioned' in our reference scripture (6-20) is associated with→ **The One Communicating the Command from God the Father to the 'Fifth Angel in verse 17**. Therefore, would be associated with the **'Seven Trumpet & Seven Bowl Judgments'**. This **'command'** is recorded in verses 17-18.

The last Angel Mentioned is in verse 19 and is→ **Actually the Fifth Angel taking the Action commanded by God the Father**→which was communicated by the 'Sixth Angel'

CONCLUSION→

There are actually→ **'Six Angels'** involved in the→ **'Four Events—Actions'** described in Revelation Chapter 14, verses 6-20. I hope this helps clarify verse 6-20.

VERSES 14-20→**PREVIEW of the HARVEST of the EARTH** **CULMINATING With the BATTLE of ARMAGEDDON:**

In the next six verses God through John's words provides the reader with a view/preview of the judgment that God will bring on this earth (some have already happened & and some are yet to come at the point in time of this chapter being written). These judgments will not be a single event but will be spread out over the entire seven year end times period which we call or is commonly known to men as the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**. The timing of when this period will begin is unknown to any **'Human or Heavenly Being'** except→ **God the Father;** Matthew 24:36, **"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."**

However, it is my opinion that the → **Specific Process** of **'Harvesting of the Earth'**, that is being discussed in Rev. 14: 14-20 by → God the Father, through John's words → will begin at the beginning of the beginning of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** (Revelation Chapters 4-18) → to include the **'Battle of Armageddon'** (Revelation Chapter 19, verses 11-21) → and conclude with → **'The Final Battle Between God & Satan'** (Revelation Chapter 20, verses 7-10), when Satan is released after the Millennial Regime of Jesus Christ: which will include the following major events within this process:

FIRST PART OF THE PROCESS:

- 1) The **'Seven Seal Judgments'** are opened by **"the Lamb" or Jesus Christ**.
 - a) The first four 'Seal Judgments' will be caused by the evil nature of man himself enhanced by the antichrist, Satan and his demons.
 - b) The last three of the 'Seal Judgments' speak to the following subjects →
 - The 'Fifth Seal Judgment' addresses Gods love and compassion for his martyred saints →
 - The 'Six Seal Judgment' appears to be describing the aftermath of the many wars that will happen during the first four seal judgments → enhanced by God's wrath →
 - The 'Seventh Seal Judgment' is introducing the next seven judgments.
- 2) Next is the **'Seven Trumpet Judgments'** which will be delivered by; 'seven angels' → sent by God the Father. By the time the **'Seven Trumpet Judgments'** are complete → at least 50% of the world's population will be dead. This number of 50%, I think, is a very conservative number as it only speaks to, two specific judgements in which a specific number is provided and does not address the death that will occur from all the other judgments up to this point in the seven year tribulation period.
- 3) The next event will be the **'Seven Bowl Judgments'** which will also be delivered by 'seven angels send by God the Father'. These seven judgments will happen during the last half of the seven year tribulation period. NOTE: I

think this last 3 ½ year period will be the **'Harshest & Most Savage'** of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**. During this time period the antichrist will rule as the supreme world leader; he will break his treaty with Israel and pronounce himself as god and set on Gods throne in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. This will truly be a terrible time for both Jews and gentiles who refuse to worship the **'antichrist and his image'**.

SECOND PART OF THE PROCESS:

The next event will be the return of Jesus Christ. This event is prophesied throughout scripture and is known as **'The second Coming of Jesus Christ'**. This event will put an end to Satan's rule on planet earth during this seven year period, to include the destruction of all unsaved people and the beginning of Jesus Christ 1,000 year rule on planet earth.

LAST PART OF THE PROCESS:

Satan will be released one last time on planet earth → Rev. 20:7, **"When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations of the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle."**

LONG TERM RESULTS OF THIS 'HARVESTING PROCESS':

This **'Results'** will conclude in → **'Two major Events'**, which are as follows:

FIRST EVENT →

All **'SAVED PEOPLE & NON—FALLEN HEAVENLY BEINGS'** will remain in → **The New Heaven, Earth & New Jerusalem with God the Father & His Son Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit for all of ETERNITY.**

SECOND EVENT →

'ALL SIN & UNSAVED SINNERS & FALLEN HEAVENLY BEINGS' → **Will be removed from the presence of God (trinity) and → 'The New Heaven, Earth & New Jerusalem → for all of ETERNITY'.**

THIRD EVENT→

God will place a barrier or void between the 'New Heaven & Earth & New Jerusalem' that→ 'THAT CAN NEVER BE BREACHED FOR ALL OF ETERNITY'!

Also in these six verse God through Johns words uses→ Three components of the 'farming process' as an example of how he, God plans to implement his judgment on this earth. This three step process is as follows: 1) sowing; 2) reaping or harvesting; 3) and processing the grapes (winepress). This example would be clearly understood by the people living in John's day and the imagery would paint a clear picture in the minds of people living during any time period→ as the farming process will be required as long as man is on this earth, therefore will transcend time.

There are two schools of thought on how to interpret these six verses:

- 1) The first view and most prevalent is that this section only applies to the unsaved world,
- 2) The second view believes that this section applies to both the saved and unsaved people of the world.

First View→ They believe that this section only applies to the unsaved world. They base their view on the wording in this section, which they believe makes it clear that it only addresses unsaved people. The key verse would be; Rev. 14:19, "The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath." They conclude that this is not the description of how God has said he will treat his saints.

Second View→ Their view believes that this section covers both the saved and unsaved people of the earth. They associate this event with the parable that Jesus used in Matthew 13:24-30 and explained in Matthew 13:36-43. In this parable Jesus explains that he, Jesus is the sower of the 'wheat' and that the devil is the sower of the 'weeds' and→ both the 'weeds' and the 'wheat' should be allowed to live together→ so as not to harm the growth of the 'wheat', until it is time for the harvest. → Then at the time of the harvest the 'weeds' will be separated out and burned up in the "fire furnace" and the good 'wheat' will be "...in the

kingdom of their Father". I cannot agree with this view, as I believe the foundation of their view is based on a 'gross misinterpretation' of the verses in Matthew. Again, in my opinion that is not what either of these scripture passages in Matthew is referencing. I will provide my opinion and then you can decide, as follows:

First Opinion Point on Second View→ I think we need to go back to the scripture in Revelation Chapter 14 and see what it is saying.

- 1) Rev. 14: 9-11 tells the reader about→ **The JUDGMENT that will come upon people who "...worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on their forehead or on the hand."** Again, this is a simple→ **Cause & Effects Equation'** and is explained in terms of the 'farming process'. However, there can be no mistake that these verses, Rev. 14: 9-11, are taking about **'JUDGING UNSAVED PEOPLE'** and **'NOT SEPERATING THE SAVED FROM THE SAVED!'**
- 2) Again, the tone of all three of these verses, Rev. 14: 9-11, only speaks about the issue of **'God's Wrath and Judgment'**, which is being 'poured out' on the 'unsaved'.
- 3) Now go back and read Rev. 14: 1-13, and notice the change in tone of verses 12-13, which are the last two verses in this portion of John's vision. This change in tone is because these two verse actually speak to the 'saved people of the earth'→ The message to this specific group—saved people—is simple→ **"patient endurance→ obey→ a special blessing"**.

Second Opinion Point on Second View→

The concluding verse in Revelation Chapter 14 is verse 20 which appears to be taking about→ **The Battle of Armageddon**. This battle will be fought when Jesus Christ returns to the earth at His **'Second Coming'**. The battle will be between→ **'Satan, the antichrist & the false prophet and all of the unsaved nations/people of the earth'**→ and **Jesus Christ and the armies of heaven**.

The only people who will survive this battle will be the people who were saved prior to the battles start and they will be the saints who populate the earth during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth. Therefore→ **How could these six**

verses be talking about the 'harvest' of saved people when they will remain alive to populate the world? We can talk more about this in class.

Conclusion → First view is correct & Second view is Incorrect, Just my opinion!

I also have put together some thoughts on these six verses, not in terms of how to interpret them, as I believe the two interpretations above adequately speak to this issue. My thoughts are more directed at a 'Macro-View' of these six verses. If you compare these events and players involved in the → **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** to those in these six verses I believe that you could make the following analogy.

- 1) Verses 14-16 states that Jesus Christ, based on orders from God the Fathers "...another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to Him who was sitting on the cloud..." delivered by an angel, was to begin the **'Harvest of the Earth'**. Compare this to Chapter 5 & 6 plus Rev. 8:1, where Jesus Christ takes the **'Seven Seal Scroll'** out of the hands of God the Father and begins the process of the process of delivering → **'The First Seven Judgments'** → on planet earth.
- 2) Verse 17 states, "Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle." I would compare this to the **'Seven Trumpet Judgments'** from God the Father in Revelation chapters 8 & 9 plus 11:15-19. In the chronological order of events this would be the second set of judgments, which corresponds to the **'Second Angel'** in our six verses.
- 3) Verses 18-20 states that there was a **'Third Event'** which would be equivalent to the → **'Seven Bowl Judgments'**, sent by God the Father, vs. 18, "Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe. The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.'" If you look in Revelation Chapters 15 & 16 you will find that the order to deliver the last **'Seven Bowl Judgments'** came from → **'The Temple of God the Father'**.

- 4) The last verse, verse 20, **“They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.”** (180 miles) I believe that this verse corresponds to the final battle between → ‘Jesus Christ and the Armies of Heaven’ & ‘Satan/antichrist/false prophet and the Armies of the Nations of the World’ → outside of the city of Jerusalem. The description of this battle is recorded in Rev. 19:11-21. And the city is identified in Zechariah Chapter 14.

Last, I think we need to keep in mind when reading these six verses → they are describing the entire seven year tribulation process, and should be discussed in terms of two separate tracks or processes even though they are driven by the same source, Satan. The first would be the ‘political track’ and second would be the ‘spiritual or religious track’. Remember the church and its protector (**The Holy Spirit**) has been removed from the earth before this seven year process begins.

Track One → Political

Based on scripture to me there can be no question that the **‘political track’** is lead or driven by Satan’s → antichrist. Remember → the antichrist only mission is to take over every nation of earth and then to fight Jesus Christ for planet earth at Gods prescribed time (Armageddon) and also take as many people as he can with him to hell. A good description of the ‘antichrist’ and his mission or goals can be found in Rev. 13: 1-10. Then in Rev. 19:11-21 we find the story of how Jesus Christ returns and destroys the ‘antichrist & false prophet’ (the battle of Armageddon), and the armies of the nations of the world and sets up His millennial kingdom. There are many places within the scripture that provides prophecy about this event; of which I have already listed two above, but I really like Joel chapter 3, which was written in about 800 BC. To me it is extremely descriptive and very easy to get a really good visual picture of what will be happening on planet earth during this time period. It is too long to quote but we will read in class.

Track Two → Spiritual/Religious

The **‘Spiritual or Religious Track’** will be ‘CENTERED’ on the antichrist/Satan, meaning they will be the ones that men will worship during this seven year

period. However, it will be led by the 'false prophet' who will be empowered by the 'antichrist/Satan' to lead the 'global religious order', Rev. 13:12, "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast..." To gain a better understanding of the 'false prophet' go back and read Revelation chapter 13, verse 11-18. Also so to gain a good picture of how these 'Two Tracks→Political & Spiritual'→ infect and control the world read Revelations chapters 17 & 18. I think these two chapters describe Satan's and man's ultimate rebellion against God the Father and Jesus Christ. This process will end with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Battle of Armageddon.

Now to tie all this into the six verses we are currently studying, in which God has been using the 'farming processes and terminology'→ as a method of conveying to us his message. To me the best scripture that ties all of this together is Matt. 13: 24-30, which is 'The Parable of the Weeds'. Again, it is too long to quote but we will read in class and discuss.

I will now go through each verse and make a few comments to provide some background about the words being used in each verse.

Verse 14:

"I looked→ and there before me was a white cloud→ and seated on the cloud was one 'like a son of man'→ with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand." I will divide this verse into sections to make it easier to understand, as follows:

- 1) Verse 13 starts out by saying, "Then I heard..." now verse 14, "And I looked..." (I used the Greek translator translation which includes the word "And" which I think is a better translation). The simple meaning is John first→ "heard" and then he→ "looked". Meaning this is the next events in John's vision.
- 2) Next→ "...and before me was a white cloud..." I think there are two key words within this statement:

One→ is the word **“white”** which we have already stated indicates→ **‘purity’** and is the **‘standard color for heavenly clothing’**; (Rev. 7: 9-18, speaks about the dress of the tribulation martyrs: 9b, **“They were rearing white robes...”** 14b, **“...they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”** Rev. 19:8, which speaks about the dress of the **‘Bride of Christ→the Church’**, **“And it was given to her that she be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.”**

Two→ is the word **“cloud”** which has been identified as; 1) something that covers Gods glory, 2) something that carries ‘beings’ to or from heaven. And that is the case in this event. Scripture about Jesus Christ coming in the clouds: Rev. 1:7, **“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.”** Matt. 26: 64b, **“But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming in the clouds of heaven.”** Also see, Matt. 24:30. Therefore, I think we can safely say that from the time of Jesus Christ ascension in about 33 AD anytime we see the combination of the words **“white and clouds”** we can reasonably associate these words with the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**.

- 3) Next→ **“...and seated on the cloud was one ‘like a son of man’...”** There is no question in my mind that this is the standard description used in scripture to describe Jesus Christ. In the Book of Daniel, Daniel uses the exact same words to describe Jesus Christ, Dan. 7:13, **“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.”** Sounds almost exactly like our verse! I think we also need to keep in mind this same concept is repeated many times in the scripture. I think I found over 40 times this descriptive concept was referenced in the scripture and I am sure there are many more. These are some I like the best: Rev. 1:7, **“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the people of the earth will mourn because of him.”** Matt. 24:30, **“At that time the signs of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and the nations of the earth will**

mourn.” (These two verses are very similar), Mark 13:26, “At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.” If these three verses do not send a cold chill up the back of your neck I think you better check your pulse!

4) Next → “...with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.”

If you look at the words in this verse I think it speaks to two issues:

One → “...with a gold crown on his head...” Meaning → Power, Authority and Title → which is what the entire first chapter of the Book of Revelation is about as it relates to Jesus Christ,

Two → “...and a sharp sickle in his hand.” Which I believe is another ‘farming term’ speaking to the issue of → **A Harvest**. I think it also speaks to the issue of ‘ownership’. Again, by using imagery of ‘farming’ and the specific word, ‘sickle’ all men of this time period would know that it was only legal for a man to put a sickle to his own fields, Deut. 23:25, “If you enter your neighbor’s grain field, you may pick kernels with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to his standing grain.”

Also, when reading these six verses keep in mind: **‘God the Father’** → Is in the process of reclaiming the earth, which was just on loan to man up until the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ and then the deed passed to Satan, the antichrist & false prophet. Rev. 11:15b, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” Again, remember God is using the symbolism of ‘farming’ in these six verses to convey to people, at the writing of this book as well as all throughout time, what will be actually happening on planet earth during this period. Also if you go back to Daniel 7:13b-14 it: **‘Completes the Prophecy’** → about Jesus Christ beginning the process of reclaiming the earth and beginning his reign on the earth; (millennial reign). “He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all people, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be

destroyed.” I really like this passage and it was written → About 550 BC or 550 years before the birth of Jesus the Christ → And 2,567 years and counting before His ‘Second Coming’!

Verses 15-16:

Verse 15, “Then another angel came out of the temple → and called in a loud voice → to him who was sitting on the cloud → ‘Take your sickle and reap → because the time to reap has come → the harvest of the earth is ripe’. **Verse 16**
So he that was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested”

Remember there are scholars who do not believe that the words in verse 14, **“like a son of man”** is describing Jesus Christ and that use this verse as proof of their view; saying that no angel can command Jesus Christ. However, I do believe that this is exactly what is happening in this verse. I believe that these two verses are a simple twostep process being executed between God the Father and Jesus Christ:

First → God the Father telling Jesus Christ, His Son, to execute His, God the Fathers will.

Second → God the Son follows the will of God the Father.

Third → God the Father is instructing his Son to begin the process of reclaiming planet earth.

Fourth → I believe that this ‘Process’ being described in these two verses follows two ‘Primary Biblical Concepts’, which are as follows:

- 1) Jesus Christ has stated this ‘Biblical Concept’ many times in the scripture that → **He Came to do the WILL of His Father in Heaven**, John 4:34, **“My food, said Jesus → ‘is to do the will of Him who sent Me → and to finish His work’.”** Again, John 6:38, **“For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me.”** Also, Matt. 26:39 & Mark 14:26 & Luke 22:42 & John 5:30

- 2) Again, Jesus Christ himself stated this 'Biblical Concept' in matt. 24: 36, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." This verse is addressing the fact that → "...no one knows about the day or hour...nor the Son, but only the Father." Therefore, it would have to be the Father that would tell the Son when to begin the 'Process of Reclaiming the Earth' & 'The Date of His Second Coming' → Because this information is → "Only (known) to the Father".

Now I will breakdown these two verses as I believe they should be interpreted as follows:

- 1) "Then another angel came out of the temple..." To me this appears to be God the Father using an angel as a messenger. We know from scripture that angels are used as Gods messengers, Luke 1:26-27a, "In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph." Also, note where the angel was coming from, "...out of the temple..." indicating he was coming out of God the Fathers presence.
- 2) "...and called in a loud voice..." again to me when the words "called" and "in a loud voice" indicate that something is being 'announced'. And this time it is being announced in heaven. The real question is → why is this announcement being made in heaven and it appears it is even being told to Jesus Christ which knows everything! Not so fast. Again, remember the words in Matt. 24: 36, "No one knows about the day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." And who is this angel sent by God the Father calling out to → "...to him who was sitting on the cloud...", which is none other than the Son → Jesus Christ.
- 3) "...to him who was sitting on the cloud..." which we have already determined is Jesus Christ or the Son of God the Father. God the Father is sending his Son Jesus Christ as a messenger → one of God the Fathers Heavenly Angel → to notify His Son, Jesus Christ, that it is time to begin the 'End Times Process' → which is actually composed of → FIVE; Separate

Steps', three of which are being described within these **'Six Verses'**. I will list all six and denote which two are being described within these six verses:

One→ The Rapture of the Church→ [Not mentioned in our six verses](#)

Two→ The **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**→ Broken down into three separate Judgment Periods→ Seal, Trumpet & Bowl→ to include 21 total Judgments→ [Our six verses talk about all three Judgment Periods→ Seal, Trumpet & Bowl](#)

Three→ Battle of Armageddon→ [Is discussed in verse 20](#)

Four→ The→ Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ on earth→ [Not mentioned in our six verses](#)

Five→ The→ Great White Throne Judgment→ [Not mentioned in our six verses](#)

Six→ The→ New Heaven & Earth & New Jerusalem→ [Not mentioned in our six verses](#)

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ will be the final implementer of this process and that God the Father has used His Son, Jesus Christ many times to deal with men: Two of these events→I really like: one, is Dan. 3:25, ["He said, 'Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods'."](#) And, two, which is the best, is when→ **God the Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ into the world to provide men with a way to be saved**; see New Testament. This point is clarified even more in the next portion of this verse.

- 4) ["Take your sickle→ and reap→ because the time to reap has come→ for the harvest of the earth is ripe."](#) Remember God is using the 'farm process of sowing→ harvesting (reaping)→ and processing the grain' in this scripture to communicate to man what is going to happen. Again, keep in mind that this is a continuation of this same 'thought process' presents by Jesus Christ in Matthew chapter 13 when he was talking about 'The Parable of the Sower' and 'The Parable of the Weeds', which we have already discussed, focus on Matt. 13: 37-43, ["He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is→ the Son of Man. The field→ is the world→ and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are→ the sons of the evil one→ and the enemy who sows them→ is the devil. The harvest is the](#)

end of the age → and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire → so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of man will send out his angels → and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace → where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He, who has ears, let him hear.”

Also keep in mind that this is a time of “reaping” for the unsaved people of the world → 1) Because the church has already been taken up to heaven at the ‘Rapture’ → 2) the people who have been saved during this period and martyred are under the throne of God the Father and being comforted, Rev. 6:9-11 & Rev. 7:9-17 → 3) the remaining saved people living on the earth after the Battle of Armageddon will be the ones that populate the earth during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth.

Therefore, all saved people have been accounted for during the ‘End Times Period’ → meaning our six verses can only be speaking about ‘The Harvesting’ → **of unsaved people living during the End Times Period.**

In this portion of the verse, to me, me God shares three very important pieces of information with all of humanity, which are as follows:

- a) **“Take your sickle and reap...”** meaning God has told or we could say ordered or even commanded → Jesus Christ to take the ‘first step’ in the process that will bring ‘Judgment’ to the earth and man. Remember the words **“sickle and reap”** are synonymous with ‘ownership & harvesting’. Also, from the beginning of this **‘End Times Process’** on → everyone, even Satan, should know that this existing creation only has 1,007 years left!
- b) **“...because the time to reap has come...”** Again no one really knows why God the Father picked this point in time to start this process. I believe that it has something to do with he has a specific number of ‘souls’ he wants to give → the opportunity to spend eternity with Him in heaven before he ends this process. Just an opinion! Again no one really

knows why but at this point → the final 1,007 years that unsaved man and Satan have → has begun!

- c) **“...for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”** Again, God the Father continues using the ‘farm process’ as imagery for men and that imagery is saying that God the Father has decided that the process of **“sowing”** that Jesus Christ was talking about in Matthew chapter 13 has about come to an end → and now it is time to begin to **“reap”** → because God the Father has determined that the earth is **“ripe”**. And He, God the Father, is the only one who can make that call. I think this goes back to the fact that only God the Father knows the point in time when this process will start and we are at the point in time when he/God pulls the trigger and begins the process.
- d) **“So he that was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.”** Again to me as stated above this is nothing more than God the Son or Jesus Christ executing the ‘will’ of God the Father and beginning the process of bring this creation to an end. I also believe that this is one and the same as the ‘Seven Seal Judgments’ in Revelation Chapter 6 and 8:1 as previously discussed above.

Verse 17:

“Another angel came out of the temple in heaven → and he too had a sharp sickle.”

I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets, which are as follows:

- 1) **“Another angel...”** Meaning a ‘Second Heavenly Being, which is identified as ‘A Second Angel’ → who is going to be Involved in the ‘Harvesting the Earth’, we know this because **“...he too had a sharp sickle.”** with the first ‘Harvester’ being identified in verse 14 → **“I looked and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “...like a son of man...” with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.”** (or Jesus Christ) So to re-cap → The ‘First Harvester’ is identified in verse 14 as →

"...like a son of man..." (or Jesus Christ) & the → 'Second Harvester' is identified as "Another angel..." Remember → Harvesting during this time period was done in multiple steps; a manual process.

- 2) "...came out of the temple in heaven..." This 'second angel' is coming "...out of the temple in heaven..." To me this statement → "...came out of the temple in heaven..." is indicating that this "angel" coming directly from the 'Presence of God the Father'. Keep in mind other verses within this section that support this same concept → Verse 15, "Then another angel came out of the temple..." → Again, this "angel" was used by God the Father to communicate to His Son, Jesus Christ to begin the 'HARVESTING' of the earth. Then in verse 18 the verse immediately after our verse 17 → another angel "...came from the altar..." with a command from God the Father to begin the 'SECOND HARVESTING of the Earth', which also supports my interpretation.
- 3) "...and he too had a sharp sickle." Again, meaning this angel too had the ability to 'Harvest the Earth', (This would be the second harvest of the earth → trumpet & bowl judgments) which again speaks to the issue of ownership. And the 'Actual Owner' can be traced through the words within this sentence: "Another angel" → (meaning a second angel) → "came out of the temple in heaven" (meaning he was one of God the Father's angel who was being sent on a mission → "and he too had a sharp sickle." (Meaning he had given the power by God the Father to perform a 'Second Harvest of the Earth').

RE-CAP → Again, verse 17 is speaking about the 'Second Harvester of the Earth', which happens to be an 'Angel' → and Jesus Christ was the 'First Harvester of the Earth', verse 14.

Verses 18-19:

"Still another angel who had charge of the fire → came from the altar and → called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle → 'Take your sharp sickle and → gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine → because its grapes

are ripe' → The angel swung his sickle on the earth → gathered its grapes and → threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath."

Again, to me it appears to be a correlation between verses 17-19 and → **'The Seven Trumpet & Seven Bowl Judgements'**.

Again, as I have said before →

FIRST CORRELATION → **Jesus Christ, Himself** → is the **'First Harvester of the Earth'** and is also the → **Implementer of the 'Seven Seal Judgments'** (Harvest= Rev. 14: 14-16 & seven seal judgments= Rev. 6; 1-14 & Rev. 8: 1-5).

SECOND CORRELATION → In Revelation Chapter 14, verse 17 we are introduced to the **'Fifth Angel'** who is **'The Second Harvester of the Earth'**: **"...he too had a sharp sickle..."** and → **This Angel is sent from God the Father who is the implementer of → 'The Seven Trumpet & Seven Bowl Judgments'**.

THIRD CORRELATION → Last, I do not think there can be any doubt in anyone's mind in the correlation between verse 20 and the → **'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ'**, which will generate **'The Battle of Armageddon'**.

I will break down verses 18 & 19 into their basic sub-sets to make them easier to discuss & understand:

- 1) **"Still another angel..."** This angel would equate to our **'Sixth Angel'** as we identified on page 524, which we said was → **God the Father's messenger to the 'Second Harvester'** to begin the second harvesting the earth.
- 2) **"...who had charge of the fire, came from the altar..."** Leviticus 6: 8-13 speaks about how the fire on the altar must be kept burning **'non-stop'**, Lev. 6:13, **"The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."** Meaning this angel was on the level of **"...Aron and his sons..."** also meaning this position puts this angel in very close proximity to → **God the Father** → **'all the time'**. It also tells me this angel had great responsibility and authority in heaven. Also keep in mind that under the altar is where the **'souls of martyred saints'** are resting until the end of the seven year tribulation period, Rev. 6: 9-11. I like these verses because it states that

these 'martyred souls' are "under the altar" → meaning they are under the direct protection of God the Father → as the giving of their lives was a 'sacrifice' there by proving their 'faith and loyalty' → like the 'Burnt Offering' to God the Father in the Old Testament. Read Leviticus chapter 6. Again, to me this "angel" equates to a being that has 'Great Responsibility & Authority in Heaven'.

- 3) "...and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle." Again, I think these words speak to two issues:
- a) One → "...and called in a loud voice..." Meaning → This angel is making an announcement and → giving a command. Also, I think this 'Announcement & Command are directly from God the Father'. Remember this angel has 'Great Responsibility & Authority in Heaven' and → His Physical Location is very close to God the Father'.
- b) Two → "...to him who had the sharp sickle." It appears to me that the → 'Announcement' is being given to 'Heaven', but it could also include earth & the → 'Command is being directed at the 'Fifth Angel', which is 'The Second Harvester of the Earth'. In verse 18b God the Father again uses the 'Farming Process' to provide a visual picture of what will be taking place during the 'Harvesting Process', which is covered in numbers 4,5 & 6 below.
- 4) "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earths vine" This is simply the command or order that was given by the angel → "...in a loud voice..." in (3) above and is directly from → God the Father'. And → 'The Command' is 'Harvest': this is the 'Second Harvest of the Earth'. Also, keep in mind the imagery being used is about the 'farming processes'.
- 5) "...because its grapes are ripe." I have said this before but I believe this was put in to let the reader know that → It is God the father who will determine when 'the people of the earth are "ripe" for harvesting'. We know that it is God the Father who will determine when the 'End Times Process' will begin; Matt. 24:36. No other 'Being' knows this information → only the Father. However, it is my opinion that it has something to do with → 'When God the Father creates the 'Last Soul/Being' that He wants

to create → and give an opportunity to be with Him in heaven for all of eternity → then He will stop this process. It is God the Father's decision and His alone → When this process started (creation) and His alone when it will stop. This is just my opinion based on my understanding of my God.

- 6) **"The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes..."** This appears to be the actual **'Harvesting Process'**, which is followed by the **'Processing Part of the Harvest'** (#7 below). This would be equivalent to the → **'Completion of the Last Trumpet Judgment'**. Remember **'Completion of the Last Trumpet Judgment'** leads directly into → **'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ' → which is Actually 'The Battle of Armageddon'**.
- 7) **"...and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath."** Some scholars believe that this verse could have a dual meaning or be interpreted in one of two ways.
- a) **First** → it could mean the **'Great White Throne Judgment'** as described in Revelation chapter 20 verse 11-15, which is for sure the last step in the **'Processing Process of the Farming Imagery'** → being used by God the Father in verse 9-20.
- b) **Second** → its meaning is connected with the next verse which talks about the → **'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' and the 'Battle of Armageddon'** → where all unsaved men will meet their death, both physical & spiritual.
- c) Also, remember this event was prophesied by Isaiah in 700 BC, Isa. 63:2-4, **"Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."**

I believe that the interpretation in (b) above fits better given the words in verse 20. However, (a) would also certainly be true given the overall outcome of their situation.

Verse 20:

“They were trampled in the winepress outside the city→ and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.”

To me there is no question that this verse is talking about or describing and providing the reader with a preview of the death and destruction that will occur at the ‘Battle of Armageddon’, which will occur at the→ ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’. It is hard to imagine the human death toll that would be required to produce this much ‘blood’. The words **“...1,600 stadia...”** is translated to 180 miles→ which appears to be the length of this river of blood, however the width is not defined. There has been a lot of discussion by many scholars on exactly where and how this battle will be fought. However, what we do know about this location is that→ Armageddon (Hal-Megiddo) was strategically located at the head of a pass through the Carmel ridge overlooking the Jezreel Valley from the west. Zechariah 12:11 prophesied this battle, **“In that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”** We will also talk about this more starting in chapter 16:16-21 and concluding in 19:11-21, which are the chapters that describe the actual event. Also, see Isa. 63: 2-4 quoted in # 3 above for additional details and Joel Chapter 3. Another place in scripture that provides us with additional details about the physical layout of the landscape at the **‘Battle of Armageddon’** is Zechariah chapter 14. We will read/discuss this chapter in class but only quote Zech. 14: 3-5, **“Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great vally, with half the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by the mountain vally, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord of my God will**

come, and all the holy ones with him.” This prophecy was given or directed at the Jewish people after they return to their homeland in Israel. This prophecy will come to pass at the end of the seven year tribulation period, which is the same time period that completes the ‘seventh’ week of Daniels→ seventy week prophecy, see Dan. 9: 20-27.

Summary:

Verse 20 concludes the six verses that I believe is a summary of the judgments that God has in store for the unsaved world during the → ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’. Again, I believe that these six verses speak about the → ‘Seven Seal Judgments, the Seven Trumpet Judgments, the Seven Bowl Judgments to include with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ’. (Note: at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period → the seven seal & seven trumpet judgments will have already occurred → first harvest & the seven bowl judgments will be yet future → second harvest) This seven year period will come to a conclusion at the → Battle of Armageddon. Also, remember this seven year period includes both; Daniels 70th week prophecy directed at the nation of Israel & the seven year period where Satan will be allowed to rule the earth and all of its people & the last chance for the gentile nations to repent and be saved.

CHAPTER 15:

We have just finished chapter 14 which is what we have called an interlude chapter (actually the words in chapter 14 provided the reader with → 1) a re-cap of what is already history: at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period, and 2) some additional prophecy of what is yet to come during the last half of the seven year tribulation period). Many scholars believe Chapter 15 is also an interlude chapter. However → I think chapter 15 should be viewed as an interlude