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## REVELATION

### The War for Our Worship

#### Revelation 14

#### I. Intro

- a. Revelation – Revealing – Unveiling
  - i. Interesting when at first glance it seems so cryptic – that is because we treat it like a puzzle to be solved instead of a picture to behold
  - ii. We are given a picture first and foremost of Jesus Christ
    - 1. The full title of the book is The Revelation of Jesus Christ
      - a. Revealing His Person, Mission, Method, and Message
  - iii. Not only is Christ unveiled, but so is his enemy
- b. Chapters 12-13
  - i. We are given access to the unseen spiritual realm
    - 1. The curtain is pulled back, we find two kingdoms at war
    - 2. An eternal Kingdom and a kingdom of imposters
      - a. A Kingdom ruled by the triune God – The Father, His Son – Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit
      - b. The other – a counterfeit trinity – made up of satan (the dragon), the anti-Christ (the beast), the false prophet
      - c. We see their mission, method, and message

***Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.***

#### II. The Bride of Christ

- a. The Lamb and Mount Zion
  - i. Chapter 13 – we saw what appeared to be a lamb coming out of the earth, caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast
    - 1. Language – earth – earth dwellers – coming out of the earth – this is kingdom language – immediately identify they are part of an earthly kingdom that is passing away
    - 2. Although he appeared like a lamb - he spoke like a dragon
  - ii. Now we see the True Lamb
    - 1. On the mountain – not just any mountain – Mount Zion – immediately recognized as God's dwelling place – where heaven meets earth

- b. Not only the Lamb, with Him are 144,000 thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads
  - i. We've already discussed who they are – but more importantly let's look at what they do – like you and I, they belong to God
  - ii. They sang a new song – they were not defiled with women, they were virgins – they follow the Lamb wherever He goes
- c. *they were not defiled with women, they were virgins* – are they all unmarried men?
  - i. 2 Kgs 19:21 *'The virgin, the daughter of Zion,; - Jer. 18:13 The virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing; - Lam. 2:13 What shall I compare with you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is spread wide as the sea; Who can heal you?'*
  - ii. Why use this language to describe the nation of Israel – that term virgin also means engaged to be married, spoken for – Israel was spoken for
    - 1. That I why their unfaithfulness, their idolatry, was referred to as spiritual adultery
  - iii. ***Rev 19: 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.***
    - 1. Spiritual purity and covenant faithfulness – what it means to belong to Jesus – it is what it means to be the bride of Christ – its what it means to have no other gods before Him
    - 2. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes
      - a. Just like the disciples – where else can we go? To be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, to join Him in His work – that is the life of someone who belongs to Him
  - iv. ***2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!***

***6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." 8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." 9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."***

### III. The Everlasting Gospel (Good News)

- a. Fear God and give glory to Him – worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water
  - i. Whose Mark?
- b. This book is a book about allegiance
  - i. Chapter 13 – mark of the beast, Chapter 14 – His Father’s Name
  - ii. This is about choosing sides – this is about unmasking satan so that we can clearly see his mission, method, and message
- c. Mission – Chapter 12 – a woman about to give birth, dragon lying in wait to destroy the child
  - i. Method – bends the hearts of sinful men to do his bidding
    1. Spiritual realm – satan lied in wait – in the physical realm King Herod - ***sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under,***
      - a. That is our daily battle – we have sinful desires within us, worldly systems to act on them, and satan delivering the invitation
      - b. Herod – pride, Worldly Authority (that is the system), satan is right there given him the invitation
    2. but he fails in his mission, so he turns his attention to people of God – ***Rev 12: 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***
  - ii. Message – you can be a god – you can rule your own life – ***Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666***
    1. Humanity was created on the **sixth day** of creation, **7 represents completion and perfection**, especially divine perfection, **6 falls short of 7**, symbolizing imperfection, incompleteness, and the inability of man to reach God’s perfection on his own, God commanded man to work 6 days, and rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> - This ties 6 to **toil, labor, and the temporal**, in contrast with the divine rest of 7
    2. 666 man, man, man – or put more plainly me, me, me.
  - iii. This is why Revelation is so important – it unmask the cosmic battle that takes in our lives every single day
    1. The addiction, the distractions, the relational turmoil between husbands, and wives, and families, the fights on the way to church, the fight just to get to church, fights at church, the extra attention someone of the opposite sex is showing us at work, the weeks or months or years that don’t seem to let up, constant attempts at quiet time that never seems to be quiet
    2. Pull back the curtain and we see the imposter fighting to keep us from the presence of Jesus
- d. ***1 John 3:8 “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”***
  - i. We must pick a side – we must choose who we will trust – where we will place our confidence – who we will turn to for truth and purpose and meaning in this life

1. Most importantly – who we will turn to for salvation? Who will we turn to deal with the greatest problem known to man – death.
- e. The 144,00 sang a new song that no one could comprehend
  - i. New – fresh, new morning, new life
    1. Their stories are personal – their worship is personal – their song is unique because it belongs to them – what God did in their life, how God reached them, how God delivered them
    2. I can share my testimony and give you a little insight into my relationship with Jesus – but it is just a glimpse

#### IV. Babylon has Fallen (Why is this good news?)

- a. ***“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”***
  - i. We have already seen the counterfeit trinity – imitations or perversion of the true Father, Son, and Spirit
    1. That isn’t the only thing satan counterfeits
  - ii. Professor gave a short version of the history of Christianity: “Christianity started in Israel as a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a philosophy; it moved to Italy and became an institution; it moved to Europe and became a culture; it came to America and became a business. After a student in the class raised her hand. She asked such a simple question, “A business? But isn’t it supposed to be a body?” “Yes.” “But when a body becomes a business, isn’t that a prostitute?”
    1. ***Rev 17: 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”***
  - iii. Man’s attempt to reach the heavens without God – sound familiar – Babel is the wrote word of Babylon - the language of ancient Mesopotamia - Babylon was called Bāb-ilu, meaning “Gate of God.”
    1. ***Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH***
- b. False Church – Man is the center of worship
  - i. What about other world religions – at the core of each, who is responsible for salvation?
  - ii. Judaism - Obedience to the Torah, covenant faithfulness
  - iii. Islam – careful adherence to the Five Pillars - Faith, Prayer, Charity, Fasting, Pilgrimage
  - iv. Hinduism - discipline in one’s chosen path, ethical living
  - v. Buddhism - Following the Noble Eightfold Path, meditation, ethical conduct
  - vi. Sikhism - ethical living
  - vii. Mormonism - Exaltation / eternal life in God’s presence requires obedience, participation in ordinances (baptism, temple rites), and covenant-keeping.
  - viii. Jehovah Witness - Salvation is conditional on faith in Jehovah, following Jesus’ teachings, and actively preaching God’s Kingdom message.
    1. Ultimately, who is responsible for our salvation – us – we earn it, we achieve it, we build our tower and hope it is high enough to reach heaven
- c. All of those towers crumble, all of them are built on a foundation of sand

- i. Biblical Christianity is the only world religion that places the emphasizes on trusting God alone for salvation because He is the only one who is completely trustworthy
- d. ***If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God***
  - i. Leads us into verse 12

***12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." 14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. 17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.***

#### V. Putting an End to Unrighteousness

- a. Picture of judgement – the time has come – the harvest is ready
  - i. Ends with blood running for 1600 furlongs – 184 miles
  - ii. One suggestion - *The product of sixteen (the square of four, the number of the earth which is the abode of the wicked) and one hundred (the square of ten, the number of completeness)*
  - iii. God cares – He is serious about sin but He is serious about salvation
  - iv. We look at this scene and we think, how gruesome
    - 1. Complete judgement – God putting an end to the deception, the distraction, the war for our hearts and minds, the evil, the brokenness in this world
- b. ***For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.***
  - i. How can you judge satan without judging those who bear his mark – who have pledged their allegiance to him by rejecting the creator of all things
- c. We are faced with a decision – decide this day who you will serve