

# **ANGELS AND WORLD-WIDE EVANGELISM**

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### **THINGS WE LEARN FROM ANGELS**



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July 1988

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#### ANGELIC EVANGELIZATION

**W**e know that the Bible speaks about angels and has many things to say about other creatures than mankind, which are angels. There are all kinds of classifications of angels in the Bible. We know from many passages that angels are actually watching us and it appears that they applaud, the elect angels, that is, when a member of the human race accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

We know that angels were very interested in the Lord Jesus Christ, and they appeared at His birth, at the empty tomb, and at His resurrection. We know that we have guardian angels, and we know also that angels in the Old Testament and in the age of Israel were teachers also of the Word of God. In fact, the word "angel" means messenger. They taught the Word of God and actually gave the law to Moses.

We also know from our present study that they will give out the Everlasting Gospel in the Tribulation to make sure that everyone gets an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour before the Lord returns to this Earth. The angels also will separate the believers from the unbelievers at the Second Advent of Christ.

Now the angels learn a lot of things from us here in this Church Age. But we will see in our study now that we can learn a lot of things about the Word of God, and the plan of God, and the GRACE of God, from angels. Angels can teach us all something. See if you can learn anything from the angels in our study here in Revelation.

One of the greatest revivals on the face of this Earth will take place in the Tribulation. and contrary to many beliefs, it will not be accomplished primarily by a member of the human race. Category: homosapien. Matthew 24:14, which states this principle says this, "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." Now this is not the false doctrine that teaches that we convert the world and then Christ comes back. We will not even be on this Earth when this happens. By the time this takes place in God's plan for Earth we will have been in a resurrection body for seven years.

But evangelism is a reality in the Tribulation, which is a time of Jacob's Trouble. There are four waves of evangelism in the Tribulation. The greatest period of concentrated evangelism in human history will occur in the Tribulation, and this will take place after the Rapture of the Church.

First of all, we have the evangelization of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. This is found in Revelation 7. Now it is interesting that when you study that passage you will find that there are 13 tribes in Israel. The reason for that is because Joseph had two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh. But you will find as you study Revelation 7 that the tribe of Dan is missing. The reason why the tribe of Dan is missing is because the tribe of Dan and the people always had a record for going into apostasy. The tribe of Dan was always apostate.

The first tribe ever to go apostate in the history of Israel, was Dan. When Dan entered the land they caused all kinds of trouble, and so they are generally found to be an apostate tribe. But when you get to the famous prophecy of Dan at the end of Genesis, you discover that from Dan, out of the tribe of Dan comes the false Messiah, the dictator of Palestine, in the Tribulation. So Dan is therefore a very apostate tribe in the Tribulation also. Therefore, there are only 12 tribes and 12,000 from each tribe, or 144,000 Jews witnessing as evangelists in the Tribulation. The Jews will remain scattered all over the Earth, and the tribe of Dan will not have any evangelists in the Tribulation.

The second great wave of evangelism in the Tribulation, will come from the converts of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. This will be the personal witnessing of their converts as found in Revelation 14:12, 13.

The third great evangelistic push in the Tribulation is a very unique one. Moses and Elijah will return and they land in Jerusalem, they are brought back to Jerusalem, and that is found in Revelation 11:1-14. Apparently they will have one of the most popular telecasts, as it were, of all times. And they will alternate teaching the Gospel, and they have a fantastic audience and they will have a great response to their message, and they will finally be wiped out. They will be killed. And they will be brought back to life again, and go to Heaven. All of this is found in Revelation 11:1-14.

Now just at the end of the Tribulation, there is also this unique fourth wave of evangelism in the Tribulation. It is called literally "the flying angel." PTALOMAI AGGELOS. Angels fly, in the sense that they move rapidly and cover a lot of territory and they come and present the "Everlasting Gospel," but this one is called the flying angel. This is found in Revelation 14:6, 7.

Now we are familiar with the fact that the Bible has a lot to say about angels and that angels communicate the Word of God. But in this case the doctrine they communicate is

the doctrine of salvation, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now angels communicating the Word of God is not unusual in itself, because this occurred before. It is well documented in Scripture in connection with Moses. Moses had to spend a lot of time in the mountains, learning the Mosaic law. And much of it was communicated by angels. This is taught both in Exodus and Galatians 4:3-19, Acts 7:53. Acts 7:53, "Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it." "Wherefore then serveth the Law? it was added because of transgression, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made, and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

So there is great evangelism in the Tribulation, the greatest of all revivals and in the worst time in all of human history. So here are four great waves of evangelism in the Tribulation. We will study this, the flying angel, in Revelation 14.

There is a principle found in this particular chapter that is very important and it is this: in the midst of the development of these dictatorships, these power politics, the terrible pressure and catastrophes brought about by religion, the destruction of human freedom in the Tribulation, how is it possible for anyone in such a terrible period of human history to be saved?

This brings out the principle that asks the question, "What about the heathen?" Now in order for God to be faithful and provide salvation for everyone, the answer to this apparent dilemma is found in Revelation 14. How is it possible to evangelize, and how can people be saved, in the midst of these terrible catastrophes, **which are brought about mainly by religion? In every age and in every generation there is a period of complete evangelization by God of the Earth.**

Now evangelization takes place on the pattern of heathenism, which means basically God-consciousness. All normal people reach God-consciousness at some time depending upon their culture and their background.

Now, in a Pristine culture that age may be 18, 19, or 20 before accountability is reached. But in an advanced culture it maybe four, five or six.

The point is that in the mind of the individual there is free will. And this free will makes a decision at the point of God-consciousness. There are some five different ways in which an individual becomes aware of the existence of God by his own cerebration. And as a result, if he is positive, which is a thought which simply says, "I would like to know more about God, I would like to meet God, I would like to get more information about God," at that point, then God has a responsibility. And this is in accordance with three Scriptures.

God must take the responsibility for any case of positive volition. **So regardless of linguistic barrier or geographical location or isolation, or any other factor, God will provide information whereby the individual will be saved by giving that individual Gospel information.**

Then we reach a second area in that individual's mind, and that is the point of Gospel hearing. At the point of Gospel hearing, regardless of the means which God has used, again, positive volition is given the opportunity to respond. And the response at that point is faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Simply because faith is the only non-meritorious system of perception.

There are two other means of perception; one is empiricism and that is sight and not faith. The other is rationalism and that also is not faith. All other systems of perception are not compatible with God's GRACE because they all have merit. The only one that doesn't is faith. Faith therefore is a non-meritorious way of perception which God accepts.

So throughout the world in every generation evangelism occurs. The world has been evangelized in the past. The world is evangelized in every generation, contrary to most evangelists' belief. There may be areas or pockets of what we call "heathenism," but

they simply exist because there is negative volition at the point of God-consciousness.

The only problem we have with this principle is our ignorance of human history. And because of this ignorance, we are not familiar with worldwide evangelism. But in history itself, every once in a while we have remarkable information with regard to evangelism.

We have three passages in Scripture that tell us, and give us biblical documentation to the fact that the world is evangelized in every generation. The very pattern of the book of Acts itself, is a picture of worldwide evangelism, in one generation.

1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Colossians 1:16, "For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in Earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him." Acts 17:6, "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

We also have all sorts of historical evidence for certain generations when Pliny the elder, who was the governor, the procurator of Pontius, which is on the Black Sea, a rather isolated area, as far as the world was concerned because the Black Sea at that time Pontius, which was on the southern part of the Black Sea, had a constant problem with the infiltration of barbarians, and also all sorts of people lived in Pontius. Pliny the elder was quite a letter writer, and he kept writing letters to the emperor Tracian about conditions. And his letters are filled with information about Christians. He describes these Christians as to the number of them and their types, etc.

We know that even in areas that border on heathenism, that there was a tremendous amount of evangelism occurring. We have all

sorts of other illustrations. North Africa, for example, was considered to be heathenistic, and yet in the third century A.D., North Africa was the center of Christianity.

We consider China to be heathenistic in many ways, and yet in the sixth century, the Nestorians evangelized China. One of the great revivals of all times existed in the sixth century in China. When we sent missionaries, in the second century to India, they discovered that the Indians of India already had parts of the New Testament, including the Gospel of Matthew. And the reason for that is because in the century before, Matthew and others had evangelized India. We have all sorts of evidences of evangelism. And again it is our ignorance of history that usually causes the problem.

But there is no part in the world today, nor in any generation in which it has not been evangelized, provided the conditions of seeking existed, which is no more or less than individuals having positive volition at the point of God-consciousness and positive volition at the point of Gospel hearing.

Now we also have a lot of interesting quotations which have come down to us. For example: I. Justin Martyr, who lived between 103 and 165 A.D., said this, "There is no people, Greek or barbarian, or any other race, by whatsoever appellation or manner that we may be distinguished, however ignorant, whether they dwell in tents, or wander about in covered wagons, which would be a reference to the Russians, among whom prayers and thanksgiving are not offered in the name of the crucified Christ to the Father."

II. Tertullian, who lived in the first century, 160-240 A.D., said this, "We are but yesterday, but yet we have already filled your cities, your islands, your camps, and your palaces and your senate, and your forum, and we have left you only your empty temples." He wrote that to the emperor of the Roman Empire.

III. Origin, who was a contemporary with Tertullian said this: "In all Greece, and in bar-

barous races within our world, there are tens of thousands who have left their natural laws and customary gods for the Word of Jesus Christ. And considering how in a few years, with no great store of teachers, in spite of the attacks which have cost us life and property, **the preaching of the Word has found its way into every part of the world."**

IV. Eusebius, who was a historian in the next century, said this: "There flourished at that time many successors to the apostles who reared the edifice on the foundation which they laid continuing the work of preaching the Gospel. A very large number of disciples carried away by fervent love, fervent love of doctrine, which the Divine Word had revealed to them, taking leave of their country, they filled the office of evangelist, coveting eagerly to preach Christ and to carry the good news to those who have not heard the word of faith, and after laying the foundation of faith in some remote and barbarous country, established pastors among them, and confirming to them the care of the settlement without stopping longer, they hastened on to other nations attended by the GRACE of God."

So every now and then, whether it be a historian tablet discovered in some remote province, or letters which come out of the past, it becomes quite evident that what the Scripture says has been fulfilled in every generation, right up to this very moment. God is faithful. 1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Colossians 1:16, "For the hope which is laid up for you in Heaven, whereof ye heard before in the Word of Truth of the Gospel, which is come unto you, as it is in all the world, and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the GRACE of God in Truth."

Acts 17:6, "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the that rulers of the city, crying, these

have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

Now, in verses 1-5, we have the opportunity for GRACE, which will exist in the Tribulation. This is the principle of GRACE always precedes judgment. In other words, there never will be a time in the history of the world when people do not have the opportunity to be saved.

In verses 1-5 we have the Jewish evangelists:

Verse 1, **their triumph.** The 144,000 stand with Christ on Mt. Zion. This is a reference to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ, and His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the Son of David, Zechariah 14:4. “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

**Their message.** The Lamb of God. Salvation, “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.” That is their message. They not only proclaim the message of the Lamb, but they are occupied with Him.

**Their identification.** In Revelation 7:3 they are sealed. In Revelation 13:16, 17, they have the Father’s Name in their foreheads. This indicates relationship. And relationship naturally is established by faith in Christ. Galatians 3:26, John 1:12. Revelation 7:3, “Saying, Hurt not the Earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Revelation 13:16, 17, “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Galatians 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.”

Verses 2, 3, **their praise.** Here we have recorded for us the accompaniment of musical instruments. In Revelation 5:9 the new song is sung by the four living creatures, the 24 elders, and numerous angels. Now it is sung here by men on the Earth, 144,000 standing on Mt. Zion. The Word of God never outlaws instruments as a means of worship and praise.

Verse 4, **their devotion.** So great is their task and so important is their message and mission, that these men sacrifice even normal functions of life, and **they devote their entire time to the Lord’s work.** The intensity of their evangelistic efforts can be seen in denying themselves the greatest earthly relationship of marriage.

Verse 4b, **their redemption.** “Firstfruits.” This means that these 144,000 evangelists are the first saved people in the Tribulation. Since all Church Age believers have been removed at the Rapture of the Church, these evangelists are saved apart from human instruments, but by reading of the Word of God. “And the word liveth and abideth forever.”

Verse 5, **their testimony.** They are faultless in their living, and they are honest in their teaching, and they make the issue clear.

Now in verses 6 and 7 we have the flying angel. Here we have a joint effort, sort of Heaven and Earth joined together in giving out the Gospel in the Tribulation. In verses 1-5, human Jewish evangelists and verses 6 and 7 angels, providing a joint effort of evangelism.

- A. In order to give everyone on the Earth the last chance to accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour before the Second Advent of Christ and judgment. Angels give, as it were, the midnight call in teaching the Everlasting Gospel.
- B. This is good news concerning Jesus Christ and his provision of salvation, with emphasis on the eternal nature of judgment which is so near.
- C. The message, is “fear,” in the sense of trust, respect, and being in awe and

being occupied with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is to be respected, worshipped, trusted and revered. Because Jesus Christ as God, is the One who alone is worshipped, we worship God. Such has always been the case and always will be the case. The way of salvation has always been the same since the beginning of time. Faith in Christ, here, is revealed at that time in the Tribulation.

Verse 6, “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven having the Everlasting Gospel, to preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people.” Now we know from Scripture that elect angels do a lot of judging as administrators of the Lord Jesus Christ and in Revelation 14:6-20, we have the judgment of the seven angels.

One of the reasons that the Tribulation is the worst period in human history is because not only do we have physical catastrophes, earthquakes, etc., but also Satan himself is cast out of Heaven and spends a great deal of his time trying to make things worse on the Earth. And then also God is judging the Earth. We have natural problems, satanic problems, and Divine judgment. So actually there is more concentrated pressure collectively and individually than at any other time in human history.

In verses 6 and 7, the first angel of judgment is found and his joy is to present the principle that **GRACE always precedes judgment**. Before the angels actually administer any type of discipline or Divine judgment, there is first of all the opportunity to avoid judgment.

So in verses 6 and 7, we have the principle that **God never judges any one at any time under any circumstances without first of all giving a tremendous opportunity for avoiding that judgment**. Now that is GRACE. This is a part of God’s character of being fair. And His fairness comes from His righteousness and His justice, which equals actually His holiness. And holiness means that man always gets a fair shake.

Now if you pinch yourself you will find that you are still alive. And if you find that you are alive, then what believer deserves to be alive? I don’t know any believer who deserves to be alive and representing the Lord Jesus Christ, do you? I never met any believer who ever earned or deserved anything from God, and I never will, because there is no such person. All believers are under the GRACE of God. We never earn or deserve anything from God. And yet here we are personally representing Him. And the reason for this is because God is faithful to us. God always gives us a fair shake.

Verse 6, “And I saw another ‘flying angel’ in the midst of Heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel, to preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

“Every nation.” Now after the word “nation” we should have a colon, simply because the word “nation” represents the principle of Divine Institution #4, which is nationalism. God preserves the human race through four Divine Institutions: free will, marriage, family and nationalism. The human race could not survive one generation, were it not for the principle of nationalism and the national entity. This is the only way in which the human race can stay alive, and this is the only way in which man is protected from his old sin nature, with all its power lust, from whence cometh wars. So we have the principle of nationalism, and it will exist in spite of all the satanic efforts of internationalism to destroy it.

Satan represents the powers of internationalism, and God preserves the human race through nationalism. Now after the word “nations” there should be a colon. And then we have three words that express the manner in which God divides the nations. There are three ways in which nations are divided. First, kindred. SUNGENEIA, kinfolk, kinsman. Kindred means a race, national entities. National entities are often divided by a race and this is probably the highest type of nationalism. People of one race, because it eliminates a great deal of confusion within

the nation regardless of the type of government which they have.

Now don't forget all races test the old sin nature. But when you wave a homogenie from the standpoint of race, you eliminate many of the inner difficulties; the domestic difficulties, of that national entity. All the original nations of the Earth were divided racially. So the first way in which a Divine Institution can exist is through a certain race.

There are also some dangers. If one nation is made up of one race, and it becomes very powerful and successful in the field of nations, not only holding its own, but becoming unusually successful in foreign affairs, immediately the people in that nation, being of the same race, assume that they are a super race, and because they are members of a certain race they are superior to everyone else. And this, of course, is not true.

It is true that there are various times in history, where certain races come to the front, and when they do, it simply means that that particular race at that time exhibits the characteristics of success and they have certain national characteristics which lead to their general success throughout the world, but this is something that comes and goes.

Rome, and Romans, and Italians think they are Romans, but they are not. Italians, in their blood, have a great deal of German in it, from the German tribes which invaded Italy. It also has some Mongolian blood from the Huns and the Vandals and other Mongolian groups that invaded Italy. Many of the Italian people have a lot of Gaulish blood from the Gauls who constantly invaded them.

Now that is going back to the ancient world. But since then, every nation in the history of the human race has invaded Italy. And when armies invade, they always leave a lot of children behind. So a lot of Italians have a lot of Spanish blood, they have a lot of African blood, since the Africans invaded Italy. The Moors invaded Italy. A lot of Turkish blood, a lot of Austrian blood, French blood, etc. If you ever studied the history of Italy, for a period of about 1500 years, you

have never seen so many armies marching through a country. And so to say that an Italian is a Roman is a farce.

The Romans died out in the third century. The emperors of Rome were Africans. They were people who lived in what is now called Yugoslavia, and other countries, and you have had all kinds of nationalities running the Roman Empire. And in the Roman Empire they were no longer Romans. By the third or fourth century most of the Roman armies were made up of Gauls, Germans and Greeks.

And so to claim racial superiority is ridiculous. In every race there are people with great brilliance and people who are stupid. Did you know that we have stupid Americans? But we are not a race, we are a nation. It is true of every country. There are bright people and dumb people in every country, and it is also true that there are certain nations that are incapable of self-rule. There is a prophecy in Genesis 9 that brings this out. "And he said, **cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.**"

And so where they do rule, they take away the freedom of people and this is true with all other kinds of people as well. So racial superiority is a myth. At certain times in history certain races rise to the top but this does not in any way imply racial superiority. It just implies that there are people within the race who control the race at a certain point and they have the superiority.

So the first designation in our passage for a national entity is a race. This country of ours is not a racial national entity. The only possible way for us to be an original racial national entity would be for all of us to be Indians or for us to be conquered by one race only. Our cultural background is Anglo Saxon. We are actually therefore composed of many races.



Now in our passage we have a second designation, "tongue," GLOSSA, the organ of speech. Wherever you find the word "tongue" it refers to a language. So the second basis for organizing a nation is a language. This is one reason why certain countries of the world have never been able to organize to one powerful entity. For example, India. India has been conquered century after century by anyone who could break through the Kuyber Pass, or any one who can land a large enough expeditionary force, at one of the river areas moving into the interior always manages to conquer the people of India.

The people of India have been conquered by about 50 different races because they have never had one language. The people of India always spoke different languages, and this is one reason they couldn't get together. The people of India, were divided. They spoke different languages, and they had different outlooks and that is why they were conquered so many times.

So in a nation language, a language entity, can be a strong entity. And when there is one language, communication is possible with a minimal amount of trouble. This was one of the great problems that Alexander the Great faced. He had a Greek army, and yet they spoke five different, well really six different dialects, and before he could move his army out of Greece, he had to develop a language, a system of communication, whereby his army understood his orders and his commands. And he developed the Koine Greek language of the New Testament.

Verse 6, the third type of description that is used here is "people," LAOS. This refers to a geographical national entity. This describes or did describe our country. In the United States we today are a national entity according to the third category here, called people. This means we include many races, and several languages, and yet we are a geographical national entity, and we have acquired several states by which we are divided geographically, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. But generally speaking, we fall into this third category.

But all of these are legitimate categories of national entities: racially, linguistically and geographically. The reason such emphasis is given to the last phrase is because in the Tribulation, there will be the greatest period of evangelism in the human race and no group of people, no national entity will be omitted.

Verse 6, "flying angel in the midst of heaven." "Fly" is a present, active, participle of PTALOMAI, which means constantly flying about Heaven. It does not refer to the third Heaven, where God dwells, nor the second heaven which is the area of the stars, but to the first heaven which is the earthly atmosphere. So there will be angels doing something which is unprecedented, at least from the standpoint of written Revelation.

Angels will land here on Earth. Another outer space visit to our planet. And there they will give a clear declaration of the Gospel to isolated people. In other words, the entire Earth is going to be completely evangelized at the end of the Tribulation. But so many outstanding things will be going on that apparently not too many people will be excited about this. And especially when angels appear to men, they always seem to take on human form. They are not members of the human race, they are a superior creation. But apparently they can take on the form of humanity and appear as men. They have done so throughout the ages.

When Abraham was sitting in his tent one day, three men came to visit him and one of them was a Christophany, the Lord Jesus Christ, the other two were angels in human form. This indicates that angels do appear in human form and have appeared in human form. In fact, Jesus Christ is called "the angel of the Lord," and He appeared enough in human form to be recognizable. But otherwise angels are invisible to homopians.

So in this verse, we have an angel and apparently numerous angels, which several will be flying about, being sure that every one hears the Gospel several times. Here is the

message from outer space. Will it be friendly, this visit? Here is their message:

Verse 6, "Having the Everlasting Gospel." The word, "Everlasting" before the word "Gospel" is very important. Because this indicates that the content of the Gospel has always been the same. Many times people ask how the people were saved in the Old Testament. And there have been many goofy answers coming out of seminaries and Bible schools. And probably the dumbest of all is that people were saved by keeping the Mosaic Law. No one has ever been saved by keeping the Law. Then there are others that say people were saved by offering up animal sacrifices, and they go back to Cain and Abel. Abel offered an animal sacrifice. Was he saved by that? No!!

No one has ever been saved by the blood of an animal. The sacrifice of an animal depicted something else. "Everlasting Gospel," means that Jesus Christ has always been the Saviour. And while Jesus Christ is revealed in many ways, the way of salvation is always, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Jesus Christ has been called many things, for example we call the Saviour Jesus Christ, but that is not English. As far as the English language goes, we do not have a word for the Second Person of the Trinity. And yet millions of people who speak the English language have been saved. Have you ever thought about that? "Jesus Christ" is Greek. It isn't English at all. And yet we believe in Jesus Christ and we are saved. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." "Jesus" is simply a Greek word brought in from the Hebrew word "Joshua." Joshua is the Hebrew word and they brought it over into the Greek, Jesus. Jesus means Joshua.

So we transliterate it, and in English we carry the Greek word Jesus, which is really the Greek word for the Hebrew word, Joshua.

This is not the Joshua who is the son of Nun. No one has ever been saved by believ-

ing in Joshua the son of Nun. And yet we all understand who and what Jesus Christ is. Jesus, is the human designation for the God-man, the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus Christ, you have heard that many times, and some times it is mentioned as cursing, Jesus Christ! Well, how many people do you know that can curse in Greek? Well, almost every because they use it many times as profanity.

"Christ" is a Greek word also, and it is actually taken from the Hebrew word, "Messiah." But notice the difference. They transliterated "Joshua" to "Jesus." The word "Messiah" means "the anointed one," and the Greek word for "anointed one," is CHRISTOS. So, CHRISTOS is translated into English, Christ.

"Jesus Christ" is actually two Jewish words, translated and transliterated into Greek, and then transliterated into English. Yet we all know who He is, and that should tell you something about the GRACE of God. The Jews knew that Messiah was to be their Saviour, but they didn't know Jesus Christ as we know Him. "JEHOVAH" actually is the verb "to be" doubled, meaning absolute perfection or the absolute one.

Genesis 15:6, "Abraham believed in God and it was accounted to him for righteousness." "Abraham believed, AMEN, in God." Now we know Him as Jesus Christ. That's English. But Abraham didn't speak English. What did Abraham speak? Hebrew? No he didn't! There wasn't any Hebrew at that time. It was Chaldean. That is where Abraham came from, "Ur" of the Chaldees.

Now what do you suppose is the root language for Hebrew? Chaldean. The Hebrew of the Jewish language is taken from the Chaldean. That is why they are so close together, like in Daniel here we have both. Pronunciation is different, but it is very close.

Genesis 15:6, "Abraham believed." "In God," literally, "Lord," "And it was credited to his account for righteousness." cf Romans 4.

The word "Lord" is here the Tetragrammaton, "JEHOVAH," JHVH. This word can be used of the Father. He is Lord.

Or it can be used of the Holy Spirit. He is Lord, or God. But this is Jesus Christ, JOSHUA CHRISTOS, Messiah. Why? Because Jesus Christ is the only revealed Member of the Trinity. So, Abraham believed in God. Yes, the Lord yes, but which one?? **If you believe in God the Father, you are not saved. If you believe in God the Holy Spirit, you are not saved. But if you believe in God the Son, JOSHUA MESSIAH, it is accounted unto you for righteousness.**

"God the Father made God the Son to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."  
2 Corinthians 5:21.

Now in a thousand different languages the name can vary, but the Person remains the same, no matter what language may call Him, **there is only salvation in Jesus Christ.** So how were people saved in the past? They were saved by believing in Jesus Christ. Only Christ was revealed to them in their language, not in our language only, so people in Persia, Chaldea, Palestine and people all over the ancient world were all saved the same way. Why? Because "There is salvation in no other." They believed in Christ, and in their language there is an equivalent which designates the Second Person of the Trinity who has always been the Saviour.

Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other, there is none other Name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 10:43, "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name is the forgiveness of sin." **Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. He is the Second Person of the Trinity. He is God, He is man, He is the God-man, united in one Person forever. He is different from God in that He is man. He is different from man in that He is God. He could not save us as God. He had to become man to save us. But before the cross He was clearly revealed.**

Adam was saved. Do you know how Adam was saved? Adam believed in Jesus Christ. The "first Adam" accepted the "Sec-

ond Adam." Eve was saved. She believed in Jesus Christ. Abel was saved. He believed in Jesus Christ. Cain was not saved. He rejected Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

Now they didn't use the word "Christ," because the word "Christ" is Greek, transliterated from the Hebrew to the English through the Greek. They had different words. But it was the same Person. He was the object of their faith just like He is of ours.

This does not believe the false doctrine that some say, "as long as you are sincere and you believe in God, you are saved." That is not true. Jesus Christ is designated in many different words in many different languages and people believed in Christ and were saved.

Verse 6, "the Everlasting Gospel." That is why it is called the "Everlasting Gospel." Since Adam sinned, the Gospel has been there, and man has had the Gospel available. And man has been saved by believing in Christ. There never will be a person in the history of the whole human race and there never has been in the past, and there does not exist at this time, a person who doesn't have every opportunity to be saved. Because "God is not willing that any man should perish."

The reason that people are not saved, is for basically two reasons. One, that at the point of God-consciousness, which all normal people reach, the age of accountability, if they go on positive signals, Gospel information will be provided regardless of their language, regardless of their geographical location and regardless of their race. But if they go on negative signals, then God has no further responsibility, though He often gives the Gospel to these people any way to demonstrate the point, like in the case of Pharaoh.

Then secondly comes Gospel hearing. And positive volition at this point is faith in Christ, however the Second Person is revealed in that language. He might be called all sorts of things, from "ADONAI" to "ELOHIM" to "Jesus," to "Christ," to "Messiah," to the "Son of God," to the "Second Person," to

the "Second Adam," to the "Lamb of God," whatever the designation it is, faith in that one Person who saves.

There is only one Person who went to the cross and bore the sins of the world in His own body on the tree. And that one Person we designate in our language by the Greek word "Jesus," which is the Hebrew word, "Joshua," which is the designation for the only Saviour. That is why it is "the Everlasting Gospel."

So, how were people saved in the Old Testament? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." How were people saved after the cross? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." **The object of faith in salvation is Christ. All of the merit is in the object, Christ.**

Verse 6, "the Everlasting Gospel." Now this brings us to another problem that often frightens people. They think there is more than one Gospel because of all the different nomenclature regarding the Gospel.

- 1. Romans 1:16... "the Gospel of Christ."
- 2. Romans 2:16... "my Gospel."
- 3. 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4... "our Gospel."
- 4. Ephesians 6:15... "the Gospel of peace."
- 5. Matthew 24:14... "the Gospel of the kingdom."
- 6. Revelation 14:6... "the Everlasting Gospel."

You know it is amazing how easy it is for some people to really get upset and shook and panic stricken by the simplest things. All you have to do is relax and think a little bit. The word "Gospel" is always the key. The word "Gospel" means literally, "good news." I have heard some well known commentator, widely admired, who have stated publicly that this word, "Gospel," means to "go whisper." And he stated that we were to go everywhere and "whisper" Christ, or whispering Christ. And people always come up with ideas like, "go-spell Christ." People take words and try to do things with them from their own imagi-

nation. But "Gospel" is a Greek word, EULO-GEO, which is "good news" literally. But it is defined by the Scripture, the context, as most of these principles are.

"My Gospel" means the person speaking has received Christ as Saviour. "Our Gospel" means we have accepted Christ as Saviour, like a local church. "The Gospel of peace" means we have been reconciled to God by Christ. "The Gospel of the kingdom" is a reference to the fact of the Millennium. "The Everlasting Gospel" means always the same, in every generation, so it is always good news.

So now is it good news that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God? The fact, "That all have sinned," is that good news?? No, it's bad news. "The wages of sin is death." Is that good news? No, it's bad news. The fact that "All have sinned," is that true? Yes, of course, it is. "The wages of sin is death." Is that true? Yes, that is what the Word of God says. But it is not "good news."

Now, the good news begins at this point. And that is the fact that all the sins of the world were poured out on Christ, and when they were poured out on Christ, the First Person of the Trinity, the Father actually judged those sins in Him, **with a result that sin, or sins, is not the issue in salvation.**

Evangelists need to hear and know and teach this principle in salvation. And if evangelists ever got this, then people would be accepting Christ as Saviour because of the evangelist and not in spite of him. The average evangelistic message is about a half hour about sin and then "Come to Jesus," at the end and everyone thinks it has something to do with giving up sin, or agonizing about sin, or feeling sorry for sin, and a whole lot of other ideas, which are biblically erroneous.

The point in evangelism is very simple, **sin is not the issue.** And this principle will not only free evangelists but also legalistic people who also like to witness. If legalists would not preach their legalism in salvation, evangelism would go many times faster, because then people who do witness would

give out correct information and line up with the ultimate witness of God the Holy Spirit.

“Good news.” This means, sin is not an issue in the Gospel. **Sin does not stand between any person and God.** Christ removed sin as an issue. **All sins of the world were judged at the cross. So if sin has been judged, then sin is no longer an issue in salvation.**

At the White Throne Judgment, the last judgment, what will the issue be?? When you listen to evangelists they just go absolutely wild about the last judgment. They used to call it “ringing the bell.” And they come up with this great idea, “Woe to you when you stand at the last judgment, and God says to you, what about this and that, the fifth you killed?” and all the rest of it.

But here is the principle: **No sin will be ever mentioned at the last judgment.** Why? They were already judged at the cross. That would be the law of double jeopardy, which says, you can’t judge anyone or anything twice for the same offense. So in salvation, sin isn’t an issue, **but Jesus Christ is.** “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, He that believeth not the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him,” John 3:36.

Generally speaking, the people who end up in the Lake of Fire are going to be religious, respectable, and self-righteous. If ever there was a reason for not going to Hell apart from the heat, just look at the type of people you will have to spend eternity with, religious, self-righteous people, and that would be enough to keep you away.

We are told in Revelation 20, that they “Will be judged according to their works,” which is human good. Sins were judged on the cross, and at the last judgment human good will be judged. So then, the Gospel is good news. And the issue in the Gospel is “Divine good vs. human good.” **“Divine good” is the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. “Human good” is the work of man for salvation.** Human good could be walking an aisle, joining a church, being baptized,

feeling sorry for your sins, renouncing your sins at the altar, dedication, rededication, re-affirmation of faith, etc.

Now it is utterly amazing that at the moment you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, God does many things for you. So, when you reaffirm your faith, does it mean that what God has accomplished for you at the moment of salvation didn’t work, and He has to do them all over again? Now who is confused, you or God?

We have all heard testimonies, whereby someone gets up and says, “When I was a young person, I accepted Jesus Christ in a Sunday School class, but now I have made Him Lord of my life,” which comes out like a second conversion story. This actually means they are confused, or possibly lead by others who are confused. And the Lord called them, “the blind leading the blind.”

Some say, “I really wasn’t saved even though I accepted Christ as my Saviour, because Jesus wasn’t Lord, and if He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.” **Now actually that is blasphemy.** Blasphemy on the lips of some sincere person makes a great combination of confusion. **Jesus Christ is Lord, PERIOD.** He is Lord at the moment you accept Him as your personal Saviour. That is a part of the many things that He does for you at the point of your salvation.

We just believe, and that is doing nothing, and when we believe, God does many things for us, and one of them is placing us in union with the Lord Jesus Christ, where Jesus Christ is Lord whether you know it or not, and regardless if someone comes along afterwards and confuses you.

Once God saves you, there is a wonderful tense in the Greek language of the New Testament called “aorist,” which when understood may help you in presenting the Gospel clearly to others. The aorist tense is a point of time, and at the point of time when a person accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, is an aorist tense.

Now what does God do at that point? At the point of salvation, it is a very weak belief.

It is little more than no belief at all. A grain of mustard seed belief. But at that point God takes that belief right out of time, then and there, and He perpetuates that point of time forever. It is a point of time divorced from time and perpetuated forever. Aorist.

So the many things that God does for you at that point go on forever. So you say ten years ago you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, and you run into some superabundant life type of believer who tells you there is something wrong with your life. And actually what is wrong with both parties is that they are ignorant of the Word of God. But one says to the other, I will tell you what is wrong, Jesus has never been the Lord of your life. And He has to be Lord of all or He is not Lord at all. You have to make Him Lord of your life. And we are going to have a dedication service, and after we sing a few stanza's you throw a faggot on the fire, and you make Jesus Lord of your life.

So they go through this routine and they come back from some camp and give a glowing testimony. They testify to what they learned at camp. And this carries them through college and when they get out into the business world they fall flat on their face. Why?? Simply because they have never learned the Word of God and they do not have the Word of God in their mind.

Now they are in business and some one says, "why don't you come to a Saturday Morning Business Men's luncheon, or breakfast? Your life is dead. We have something that will help you," and so you go and you find others speaking in tongues, and they invite you to come back and take your first lesson on how to have columns of air pass the epiglottis to get different types of sounds. And this is supposed to be the quintessence of spiritual experience.

And again, we repeat **the tongues movement is not the Christian way of life. It is blasphemy.** All of it. All the way through every ounce of it. It is either psychological, which is human viewpoint, or satanic, which is demon possession. The only people who speak in tongues today, since the completed

Canon of Scripture, are the angostramosthos demons, or "OV" demons. Or those who have connected their psychic with their epiglottis and they come up with, "ye totikel tikel tikel," which is actually the Hebrew language repeated and practiced.

The last bonafide experience of speaking in tongues was in 70 A.D., before August of 70 A.D. simply because in August of 70 A.D. the Jews went into the fifth cycle of discipline and the purpose of tongues was cancelled, right then and there. The purpose of tongues was to warn the Jews for 40 years of the coming of the fifth cycle of discipline and to get them out from under it by getting them into union with Christ, which is the baptism of the Spirit as per 1 Corinthians 12:13. And believers today are being made suckers of, allowing some apostate person to strap something on them.

Well, there are going to be tongues in the Tribulation. The devil's man is going to speak in tongues, and he will lead a lot of people astray with it also. But in our passage, in verse 6, in order to make sure that everyone has a chance to be saved, angels are going to preach the Gospel, the Everlasting Gospel.

Verse 6, "preach." Aorist tense, this makes up the entire period of the Tribulation. Active voice, this indicates that angels will do it. And in the age of Israel angels teach. Infinitive mood, this indicates it is God's purpose for every living person in the Tribulation to hear the Gospel many times. "Preach" means, to announce, to announce good news.

Verse 6, "To them that dwell on the Earth, to every nation." Now, in spite of every satanic attack in the Tribulation, in spite of the greatest period of internationalism in world history, the revived Roman Empire, the king of the north, the king of the south, the king of the east, in spite of power politics, in spite of these great spheres of influence, which will exist in the great Tribulation, there still will be nations. That is why there will be people to evangelize. And that is why there will be evangelism.

Nationalism will survive all the attempts of history to destroy it. Nationalism is a Divine Institution to preserve and perpetuate the human race. Nationalism will survive all the insidious internationalism attacks upon it, we will still have nationalism. It will survive even the desire of our country to turn over its sovereignty to the United Nations. First to turn over our court, and then to turn over our military.

But even that plan will be frustrated. There will be still nations, therefore people, and therefore evangelism. “God is not willing that any should perish.” Nations, kindred, race, tongues, language, people, geographical locations. The four Divine Institutions will continue to exist: free will, marriage, family, and nations.

Verse 7, “Saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of judgment is come, and worship Him that made Heaven, and Earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” “Saying with a loud voice,” literally, loud and clear, projected, so that the words are understood. Information is communicated by words. Now not all have loud voices, but all will be clear. There is the necessity for clarity.

“Fear God.” Now this indicates actually what we are going to see in the next chapter and a half. This is occupation with Christ at the second coming of Christ. “Fear God,” this is evangelism by fear. There are many ways of evangelizing as far as the principle of mechanics, love or fear. Fear here refers to the closing moments of the Tribulation. This is when time is running out, time is short, and when people must be awakened to the reality of eternity. The word “fear” places the emphasis on the nearness of eternity for those who have rejected Christ as Saviour. The “baptism of fire” is just around the corner. Literally, “fear the God.” “HO THEOS.” God refers to a member of the God-head, and again it is Jesus Christ, the only manifested Member of the God-head. God the Father, is never seen. The Holy Spirit is never seen, only the Lord Jesus Christ is seen.

John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son of God, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath revealed Him.” The Hebrew word “ELOHIM” means three Persons have the same essence. And ELOHIM is translated “gods.” The Father is called JEHOVAH, the Son is called JEHOVAH, and the Holy Spirit is called JEHOVAH.

Moses wanted to see God and he saw God, and that was Jesus Christ. The burning bush was a picture of Christ. The man who walked with Jacob was Jesus Christ. Whenever you have the manifest God, it is always Jesus Christ. John 1:18, “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son of God, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath revealed Him.” John 6:46, “Not that any man hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, He hath seen the Father.” 1 Timothy 6:16, “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.” 1 John 4:12, “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

Now, “Fear the God” here, means, that Jesus Christ is just about to return. And when He does return to this Earth all unbelievers will be taken off the Earth and cast into fire. So, “the God” here, Christ, comes back here as the Judge. Therefore, fear the Judge, respect for the Judge.

In John 5:22, we find that all judgment is committed into Christ’s hands. And actually there are two great judgments administered by Jesus Christ. At the Second Advent of Christ we have judgment, where the unbeliever is cast off the Earth into fire, and the Millennial believers go into the Millennium. At the end of the Millennium, we have the last judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment, and “hell delivers up” the dead, and they are resurrected and cast into the Lake of Fire. So because unbelievers are going to be removed from the Earth, it means that as the Tribulation ends, the unbeliever has a very short time to accept Jesus Christ as personal

Saviour. Therefore, the word “fear” is used. Fear of missing the boat, i.e., baptism of fire. Fear of Divine judgment, therefore fear is a bonafide means of bringing someone to Jesus Christ, providing you don’t add any gimmicks to it. But regardless of the means, fear or love, the response to Jesus Christ as Saviour, saves.

Verse 7, “Give glory to Him.” This again refers to Jesus Christ, give glory to Jesus Christ. The only way you can give glory to Christ is always found in the principle of GRACE. **Because GRACE equals God doing the work, and man does the receiving, and therefore God gets the glory.** In this case, God gets the glory, and it is Jesus Christ, because Christ died on the cross, He did the work, He died for our sins, He provided everything for us in salvation, and man simply receives it. And the manner of this reception is faith.

John 1:12, “As many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, to them that believe on His Name.”

Man receives but he can take no credit to himself. And man receives that which God has done and that is salvation. God therefore gets the glory. So, “Give glory to God” is the same as “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” because the issue here is salvation. This is stated this way to demonstrate the GRACE principle involved in salvation. The reason for the GRACE principle here, is because of the overall picture here of the Tribulation is the principle that GRACE always precedes judgment. God gives all members of the human race a fair shake... “give glory to him.”

“To Him” is dative of dignity, and again reference to Jesus Christ. Christ is the object of faith in salvation.

“For the hour of His judgment.” The hour of His judgment, the hour, is the Second Advent of Christ, the baptism of fire. “Is come,” aorist tense, about to come, literally. Iterative aorist tense. Which results in, “Worship Him.” And again we have dative of dignity, a reference to Christ. “That made Heaven and Earth and the sea and the foundations of the

waters.” This is a reference again to Christ, who is not only our Saviour but He is also the Creator.

This principle is found in John 1:3, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:10. Jesus Christ is the Creator, not God the Father. In Genesis it says, “In the beginning God created.” BERESOTH BARA ELOHIM. Now the word “God” in the Hebrew is “ELOHIM,” plural, all Three were there and so we cannot tell from Genesis 1:1, what Member of the God-head did it. “ELOHIM” represents essence, and not person, so it could be anyone of the Three. What this passage in Genesis does say though is that the One who created the heavens and the Earth had essence, sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, love, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, immutability, and veracity. But Genesis doesn’t indicate which One of the Persons of the Trinity did it.

John 1:3, “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” Colossians 1:16, “For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in Earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.” Hebrews 1:10, “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the Earth: and the heavens are the works of Thine hands.”

When you get to Genesis 1:2, (“And the Earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”) and you find that the Earth specifically had been put on ice, and one day God took the whole Earth and put it in an ice pack. Why? Well, this is where the devil used to hang out. This is where he had all his fun, and had his kicks. And the devil and the fallen angels had been living it up so much on this Earth, and they had filled it with so many throw away six packs, that God stopped it. And it is called “the Earth,” TOHU V BOHU, which simply means the devil messed it up to the point where God had to shut it down. The Hebrew says, “the Earth



became waste, void, wasteland, desolation, ruin,” and so God packed it in ice. There was a big angelic party. God broke up the party, and put an ice pack on. The Earth was completely in ice, miles and miles around the whole Earth and He left it that way until He created man.

And then God, with a marvelous sense of humor, so that man could resolve the unseen angelic conflict, and since the Earth Was previously the devil’s beer garden, God put man right where the devil had his party. Then we have in Scripture, not six days of creation, but six days of renovation, and what God did was to unzip the ice pack and hauled all the ice off, and then He began to fix up the Earth for man, and that took six days. Then on the sixth day, a creation (BARA), JEHOVAH ELOHIM did this, Jesus Christ created man.

BARA, the Hebrew says, for creation, out of nothing the Earth was refurnished for man and that made the devil mad, and he came down as quick as he could to take all this away from man, because this was his favorite spot and he couldn’t get here quick enough. He couldn’t wait to get to this isolated spot called Earth, isolated from the rest of the universe. The Earth is isolated from the rest of the universe, it is not in the center. It is way out on the side. So when God renovated it for man, Satan wanted to get it back and so he got busy and he got it back. And it is probably still his favorite spot, and he probably comes here quite a lot. And when he is not in Heaven he is here.

Now just think of all the other places he could go. We want to revisit the moon, and we are nuts. The devil passed the moon a long time ago. The moon is like a desert. It is like Death Valley. The devil is smarter than we are and he wouldn’t fool with the moon, or Saturn or Venus. They all have nice names to make them seem appealing, but there is nothing there. Venus doesn’t even have girls. So to pick Venus and Mars and Saturn over the Earth just shows how ridiculous man really is.

Are they inhabited?? Well, the moon is a reflector. And it bounces light off for night.

We want to go to a place that the devil sticks his nose up at. When Satan found out that the Lord unzipped the ice pack and renovated it for man, he couldn’t get here soon enough to get it back, and he did.

**The devil is the ruler of this world.** So verse 7 says, “The hour of judgment is coming,” the end of the line. The angels are going to gather up the tares, the unbelievers, and toss them into the fire. So, if you want to avoid this judgment, accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. We have five references to Jesus Christ in this passage:

- 1. Fear God.” This is occupation with Christ, the manifestation of God at the Second Advent.
- 2. “Give glory to Him.” This is a reference to His character, His essence, this is God’s glory.
- 3. “Judgment is coming.” God judges, Jesus Christ is the Judge. All judgment is committed into His hands.
- 4. “Worship Him.” Only God receives and should be worshipped.
- 5. “Creator.” God is the One who created everything. Jesus Christ is God.

Verse 8. Now in this verse, we have the second angel of judgement. The first angel warns of judgment by giving the Gospel. The first angel we call the fair angel, the evangelist. Now if you were going to judge something after giving the people the Gospel, and you were going to judge something, logically what is the thing you would pick out above all else to judge?? Logically. Don’t say, Mongolia, or some geographical area. Logically there is only one thing to judge. Not Communism, not socialism, not Russia, not China, not Lybia, or Iran. The first thing you judge is religion. **When Christ returns to this Earth, He removes religion right off the face of the Earth.** So there will be no tongues movement in the Millennium, no cults, and Los Angeles will be a nice place to live. All religion will be removed.

But in the meantime religion will remain on the Earth, and it will reach its peak in the

Tribulation. So, the second angel judges religion. Verse 8, "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." There is one misleading word in this verse, "city." The word "city" does not appear in the original text. What the angel says is, "fallen, fallen is Babylon the great."

What is Babylon the great? The meaning of the word is taken from its first use in Scripture, the first use of Babylon in Scripture is Genesis 11. The first mentioned principle. In Genesis 11 we have our first United Nations building being constructed. The first, but not the last. We have had two so far. Two: the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Now the one in Genesis 11 is a little different from the United Nations building we have today because it was a religious system of internationalism. While they were building this great building, which was going up to Heaven, the Lord came down and looked at it and destroyed it. This was religious internationalism. And that is exactly what the Lord did, He destroyed the building. And then He set up the Divine Institutions under four categories instead of one.

Now up to that time everyone spoke the same language. And everyone was from the same race. They were one race, one language, and one people. So God broke it all up into many languages, nationalism by linguistic division, then many races, Divine Institutions by racial divisions.

Then the principle of geography, a lot of it to occupy, as before they were in one place. He broke them up geographically, and Divine Institution #4, nationalism, was to stay, and the Lord made certain that it was. The enemy of Divine Institution #4, nationalism, is Babylon the great, which represents internationalism, which tries to break down national barriers. Babylon the great is described in great detail in Revelation 17, 18.

But here the announcement of its judgment is given. It is the responsibility of this angelic creature to administer judgment to re-

ligion. **Babylon the great is the ecumenical religious system of the Tribulation. Religion is the satanic counterfeit of a true relationship with God. Religion is the attempt to have a relationship with God on the basis of human merit, seeking the approbation of God or salvation through human good.** Religion is the greatest enemy to the Truth, as it is the spirit of error vs. the Spirit of Truth. Religion is the counterfeit to Truth.

Religion is organized and has a system. Religion has counterfeit doctrine. 1 Timothy 4:1, the doctrine of demons. Religion has a counterfeit communion table, 1 Corinthians 10:19-21, idolatry. Religion counterfeits ministers, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Religion has a counterfeit gospel, 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4. Religion has counterfeit spirituality. Galatians 3:2, 3. **Religion is the greatest deceiver of the truth. Any system of salvation by works is religion.**

And so here in our passage, the long awaited judgment of religion is stated, "fallen, fallen, is babylon the great." This will occur at the end of the Tribulation. The details are given in Revelation 17, 18.

Verse 8, religion is called "spiritual fornication." "She made all nations drink." "She" refers to religion, the great harlot of Revelation 17, which is the ecumenical religious system of the Tribulation. "She made all nations." What do all the nations have in common? Well, they were all touched with her religious system. "To drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

In other words, when they accept the ecumenical religion of the Tribulation, they will be drinking down their own damnation. They drink something that at first gave them a good feeling, and later it booted them right into the Lake of Fire. Here is a cup of wine, and who are the people who will drink it? This is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:7ff.

Here then is a cup of wine, from which they drink, and in this goblet is religion, salvation, spirituality by works, and they drink it and like the taste and it gives them a good

feeling. **Religious systems have all their good feelings, but it leads to destruction. Religion is poison.** Who are the ones who drink this poison? Well, **people who do not orient to the Word of God.**

2 Thessalonians 2:7, "The mystery of iniquity is already in operation." During the Church Age, religious systems in the Church Age. "But only He who restrains will restrain until He be taken out of the way." God the Holy Spirit has put a restrainer on religion, holding it down until the Tribulation, then the restrainer is removed.

Verse 8, "Then shall that wicked one be revealed." This is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. "Whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, destroy with the brightness of His coming." This is the Second Advent of Christ. "Even whose coming is according to the standard of Satan's working or satanic power."

Now what does Satan do with his power, with his extra-natural power? "Signs, miracles of healing, lying wonders, use of tongues." Tongues and healing and signs suck in the people in the Tribulation. But remember the previous verse, "The mystery of iniquity doth already work."

So who drinks this cup of wrath in the Tribulation? Well, people who go for tongues and healing. Why will they drink? Please notice in verse 10, "They are deceived with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they receive not the love of the Truth that they might be saved." They will reject the Truth. And when people reject the Truth, they are negative to salvation. And this causes an emptiness to form in the soul, then into that vacuum comes religion. This is the principle found in Romans 1:18-25. **Religion always comes into your mind because of the rejection of Truth.**

In Romans 1 it tells us they had a clear presentation of the Truth and they rejected it, therefore they changed the Truth of an uncorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man, four-footed beasts, creeping

things, etc. **Rejection of the Truth, rejection of Jesus Christ who is the Truth, causes a vacuum into which is drawn religion or rationalism. When you do not receive the love of the Truth, you are a sucker for experiences, and emotions, healing, and tongues and miracles.**

Thessalonians goes on to say "And for this cause God shall send strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all might be damned who 'believe not the Truth' but had pleasure in unrighteousness." This means pleasure through religion, emotions, healing, tongues, miracles.

And the warning, don't drink it! "She, ecumenical religion, made all nations drink." This is a perfect tense of "drink," which means to drink in the past with a result that they stay with the movement.

"Of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Religious alcoholics. **Fornication here, is apostasy, falsehood, satanic doctrine, spiritual adultery.** This is said to be "drinking wrath." So the second judgment is against religion.

Verses 9-13, the judgment is against those who adhere to religion. Now previously in verses 6 and 7, we have the principle of the first angel. Things we learn from angels. The first angel teaches us that GRACE always precedes judgment. Which means that God's character is perfect and in the perfection of His character it is absolutely impossible for God to be unfair to any member of the human race. Since He cannot be unfair to any member of the human race, He never judges without giving ample opportunity for the individual to personally find Christ as Saviour.

And in verse 6, we also learned the principle of the Divine Institution of nationalism. In Psalm 137, we see GRACE in nationalism. It is the principle that you never miss it until you lose it, which to the Jews was dispersion, oppression, and being taken out of their land, because of being out of fellowship with the Lord. This was the fifth cycle of discipline to the Jews.

And we had nations described for us, as language, race and geographical isolation. Kindred, same race, tongues, languages, same people, geographically amplified the principle of GRACE before judgment. This is the preaching of the Everlasting Gospel by an angel.

Verse 8, the second angel, messenger, message, judgment against internationalism. **Religion is the greatest enemy to the cross, the Truth, Jesus Christ. Religion is the basis of deceiving more individuals than anything else in human history. So therefore religion must be judged.** And this is amplified in Revelation 17, 18.

Verses 9-18, the third angel of judgment. This is a judgment to those who adhere to religion. The second angel judges the system. **The third angel judges the individuals who go into the system.** So the principle: both the system and those who are a part of the system are judged.

Behind this principle is always the fact that God always judges the apostate system. Many times those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, who are born again, will identify themselves with an apostate organization and in so doing, will become involved and share in the discipline of that organization. **That is why we are told to separate from them.**

Verses 9-18, the third angel of judgment. The judgment of adherence to religion. Verse 9, "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand." "If" is a first class condition, this is not supposition. If and it is true. This situation is a reality. "If and they do worship the beast."

Actually we have three factors here. "Worshipping the beast." This is a person, the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire in the Tribulation. He is also the political leader of the ten nation confederation, which, if at this time, would be the united states of West-

ern Europe, in the Tribulation. So it is the worship of a person, not Christ.

Second, "His image." This is worship of a religious system, ritual is involved, idolatry. Thirdly, "Receiving his mark." Adhering to the economic system, which ostracizes those who refuse to worship, individuals that are involved adhere to all three parts of this system. Beast, image, and mark; person, worship, mark.

Now we know that Jesus Christ the Person is to be worshipped. And His mark, our identification with Him, provides for us our provisions. In the Tribulation the mark is some sort of identification which permits the person to buy food, have property, engage in business, and without this mark one is economically ostracized.

We have this type of religion in our country right now, where we have a religion that ostracizes others from working if they are not of their belief. **Now we are identified with Christ, and Christ provides our economic stability, and we are told we will never have to beg bread, because He provided the most for us at the cross, and now that we are His children He can only provide much more.**

Behind this is a principle. In this ten nation federation, in the united states of Europe, we have the union of religion and state. The Bible is very clear on this principle, that **there can never be any freedom where there is union of religion and state**, i.e., Iran. Call it separation of church and state, or **actually separation of religion and state**. When a church combines with the state, it is no longer a church, nor is it Christianity. It is religion. Every person has the right and the free will to choose between and choose in regard to any type of spiritual or religious organization or principles or doctrines, whether they are true or false. We all have free will. Whether apostasy or doctrinally correct, we have a choice. In other words, whether you like it or not, everyone in this country has a right to choose, to reject God or accept God, to believe in Christ or to reject Christ, to accept the Bible as the

authority or reject the Bible as the authority, or to become involved in a cult.

This freedom is always hindered when any religious system becomes the state. No matter what kind of a religious system it is, even if it is a straight, true system. Therefore not a religion, but a true Christian organization which is compatible with the Word of God. **There should always be a separation, between Divine Institutions, and the Christian institution.** One influences the other, but they must be separate.

There are four Divine Institutions. A Divine Institution is something that God has designed for the entire human race. It is to keep the human race alive, it is to provide freedom for the human race, it is to make it possible for the human race to be evangelized under bonafide biblical principles.

Divine Institution #1: This is free will, volition, individual freedom. This is the right of the individual to make choices which are compatible with common law or whatever system you might live under.

Divine Institution #2: This is marriage, marriage is the first organization in a national entity. As it is the basis of taking a baby who starts with nothing in their minds, and training the child in a manner whereby he or she can fit into the next principle.

Divine Institution #3: Family. Here is where the training gets under way. So that they will understand what freedom is and be able to pass on this principle.

Divine Institution #4: This is nationalism. God does not permit under His system any international organization. Because if any man gains control of too many groups of people or too much territory, it is too much for his power lust and which results in the enslavement of some for the enslavement of many.

These four Divine Institutions, make it possible for the human race to survive, for the human race to continue to be an extension of the resolving of God's essence, God's character in the unseen conflict of angels, and for individuals to make a choice, without

coercion, without pressure, whereby such individuals can decide for Christ or against Christ. To make it possible for the doctrine of heathenism to be resolved, the principle whereby any person at the point of God-consciousness goes on positive signals, God is responsible in providing information for that individual and that comes through Gospel hearing. Positive signals at Gospel hearing simply means faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. So a local church allows the individual to use their volition, which is a Christian institution, made up of believers only.

Now marriage is not really a Christian institution. It is for all members of the human race. Marriage was never intended to be inside of a church, and the author of marriage in the Church came when Romanism dominated the western world, which was about three hundred years after the Church began, before there was any marriage in the Church. It is actually not the function of a Church to perform the marriage ceremony.

Marriage is not for believers only. Marriage is actually a function of the Divine concept, state, or civil service. And to pursue this a little further, do you think that the only people who have families, which is Divine Institution #3, are Christians? or have family life? No, unbelievers have families, and sometimes they get along a lot better than Christians do.

Nationalism is for the whole human race. We are not a Christian nation. There is no such thing. If there was such a thing as a Christian nation, it would be radically wrong, because it would mean that freedom has been destroyed. In other words, **freedom can destroy freedom.** If you don't believe that, then explain what is happening in our country.

So we must distinguish between a Divine Institution for the entire human race and a Christian institution, which is for believers only, a local church. In a healthy nation you have a number of believers, either a minimum or a maximum, but you don't have to have a maximum number of believers in a

national entity for influence. You can have a remnant, and usually do, a remnant, provided they know the Word of God.

**It isn't how many believers you have in the nation, it is the quality of the believers, how much of the Word they know and apply.** Believers are said to be "The salt of the Earth." Salt preserves a nation. If the salt loses its savor, or its preservative power, what happens to the nation? It goes down.

This explains the thermometer for the fourth and fifth cycles of discipline to Israel in the past. So to the believer with the Word, the local church functions separate from government, and it can have a great deal of influence on its government or on the nation, or nationalism.

First, by witnessing, evangelizing. Second, by the presentation with clarity and lucidness of the Christian way of life. We have had many illustrations in history of the rise of a nation, a nation with maximum freedom, with maximum blessing, even economically as well as spiritually, when biblical principles are adhered to. This is done by the influence of a minimum or a maximum number of believers, the teaching of the Christian way of life and this overflows into the life of the nation, as believers have this influence. But in no way are we to mix these things up.

Now when you perform a marriage in a church, there is a principle of union of church and state. But this doesn't have disastrous repercussions. But some organizations use marriage in the church to keep their people in line "with a big stick," as it were, and that is spiritual bullying. Marriage is for the whole nation. Two unbelievers can get married in a church. Now if you are honest with yourself and you have perspicacity to understand that you would not want only Christians to be married, and that you would not want unbelievers not to be married.

**Getting married in a church does not make your marriage successful.** Some of the worst fights in history have taken place when couples were married in a church. Most people think it is good luck.

They won't admit that, but, wherever you are married, in front of a J.P., a preacher, captain of a ship, anywhere, an elaborate wedding and reception, that won't make it go. **Most married couples have a better chance if they cut out the thousands of dollars spent on weddings and just give it to the couple being married.**

There has to be a line of demarcation between Bible Christianity and the nation itself. Otherwise Bible Christianity cannot reach the nation when distinctions are blurred, and furthermore the nation is enslaved. No nation has ever been ruled by religion or Christianity without being enslaved. And there are many types of enslavement.

India has been ruled by religion. Buddhism worships a cow and instead of eating the cow, or worships a steer, instead of eating a steer. And this results in millions in India being near starvation and yet walking around beside them are all these cattle which could feed them for a hundred years. So in that sense they are enslaved.

There are other types of enslavement. History is filled with the wreckage of nations which have been ruled by religion. It has often been said by historians of the past that the backbone of the nation is its middle class and there can be no middle class when religion rules the nation. Now that is historians of the past, not our present day historians. **In nations where religion rules, you have extremes.** You have poverty, you have stricken people, very poor, and then you have some sort of aristocracy made up of the nobility and the church, and this is what is the three estates. The difference between the first and second and third estate, is a very drastic elimination of a middle class and prevents this nation from moving on and amounting to anything.

Now in our passage, God is really condemning something in the Tribulation, which has application to us, even though it is tribulational. And that is the condemnation of those who adhere to a religious system. When a religious system becomes the state as the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribula-

tion, those who adhere to that religion, will be judged by God. In other words, **God judges the system and God judges the personnel in the system.**

So at this point we have the judgment of the personnel in the system and the system and the judgment occurs at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

Verse 10, this verse describes the baptism of fire. "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, and He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb." "The same shall drink."

This is the personnel involved in the religious system, the ecumenical religious system in the Tribulation. "Drink of the wine of the wrath of God." This is a very interesting phrase here. Later on we will see the "cup" of His indignation. And the word "cup" is also used here. It's literally, a drinking goblet.

Now the first use of the word "cup" or goblet and its significance is found for us in Matthew 26:39, where Jesus Christ said, "If it be possible let this cup pass from Me." Now the cup to which Jesus Christ alluded here is the cross. In this cup, or goblet, are the sins of the whole world. The sins of the world were poured out on Christ, and Christ said, "If it be possible let this cup pass from Me."

He uses the analogy of the cup and He was going to drink it. Matthew 20 tells us, "Can you be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with and drink of the cup from which I will drink?"

**Drinking from the cup, which are the sins of the world poured out on Christ, which took place during the last three hours on the cross, and God the Father actually judged those sins in Christ.** The Father judges those sins, and Christ drinks from this cup. This is the cup of salvation. So drinking from the cup is a picture then of judgment. God's wrath, and the Father's wrath fell upon His Son and He drank it. **Jesus Christ drank the wrath of God. God's**

**wrath was against sin, but the sins have been poured out on Christ. He drank it to the bottom, the last dregs.**

Now there are those who reject Christ dying for them on the cross. And those who reject Christ stand on their own human good. The work of Christ on the cross is Divine good. **Those who reject Divine good stand pat on their own human good. Now human good has been rejected by God and will be judged.** We see this in Revelation 20, "According to their works." **Therefore human good is no good.**

So in our passage here, these people in the Tribulation are in a religious system, and the system is a system of do good, works, social gospel. Since they have rejected the cup of Christ and/or salvation, they have a cup from which they will drink. This cup which they will drink is called here, "the wrath of God." The cup of the wrath of God.

So the human race can take its choice, **either let Christ drink the cup for you, or you drink the cup yourself.** Either accept Christ drinking it for you on the cross, or the Tribulation people will accept the wrath of God on themselves, which is called in Scripture, the baptism of fire, which will occur when Christ returns to the Earth again. **Either you let Christ drink God the Father's wrath for you, or you drink it yourself.**

Here, then is a goblet of poison, and you have a choice of drinking this poison yourself, and dying horribly or some other person steps up and says, "I love you, I will drink it for you." **Christ tasted death for everyone.** So you have a choice to make, someone else drink it for you, or you drink it. Christ said, "I love you. I drank it for you." And you accept what He did. **He is your substitute. But, you can turn around and say, "Forget it, I will do it myself," and you drink it,** and that is the baptism of fire.

Now that is what this passage is saying. So you can choose this day, who is going to drink this cup? Christ drank it for you, and that is your so great salvation. That is the

cup of salvation and the GRACE of God for you. **Will you accept Him, or will you drink it yourself?**

Those who adhere to religion say, "I will drink it myself." "The same ones shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." Those who worship the beast, the image and receive the mark, the converts of the ecumenical religious system of the Tribulation, will drink of the wrath of God, which is "poured out without mixture." "Poured out" is a reference to the Second Advent of Christ, and judgment. "Without measure," is literally without dilution, prepared, unmixed, concentrated wrath, not deluded, or diluted, not watered down. This is God's personal attitude about religion, and all those who adhere to it.

Now the worst sinner who ever lived was a religious person. This was Saul of Tarsus, stated in 1 Timothy 1:5. The reason why he was the worst sinner who ever lived, the chief of sinners, was because more than any living human being in the history of the human race, Saul of Tarsus was the most religious. **He was moral, self-righteous, legalistic,** a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was more religious than anyone else and he was a murderer. And so was Judas, religious and a murderer, which explains for so many persecutions. **Religion kills.**

**Saul's religion produced in him a sincerity, it produced in him a powerful motivation, whereby in the name of religion, Judaism, he killed Christians.** He imprisoned Christians, he persecuted Christians, and therefore persecuted Christ, wherever he could find them. This is why, before his salvation, he was the "chief sinner." Probably the worst person at that time who ever lived outside of Judas, was a religious person.

"The wine of the wrath of God is prepared unmixed." This is a perfect tense, which means, unmixed in the past with a result that it is always unmixed. The passive voice means it is received, and it is received on the basis of free will. The participle indicates that this is a policy which never varies. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have eternal life. The unbeliever sooner or later must

meet the wrath of God. This principle is found also in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him."

In this case, the unbeliever of the Tribulation, meets the wrath of God at the point of the baptism of fire, declared also in Matthew 3, "cup of His indignation." This is God's indignation, this is God's wrath, this is God's righteousness and God's justice. God made a decision of love with regard to the human race and this decision was made millions of years ago before angels existed and before man existed. God anticipated through His omniscience, His omniscience knew that man would come into the picture, so God made a decision in regard to man. He decided that man would be the object of His love. But His love is hindered.

Here is God making a sovereign decision to love man. And He expressed it by, "God is not willing that any should perish." **Now love came to man through GRACE, love being the motivation for GRACE.** Love is not motivated by righteousness and justice, but by GRACE. Righteousness and justice hinder God's love from going through GRACE because man is a sinner, and man has an old sin nature. And because man is a sinner and has an old sin nature, God must be fair and honest. So because God is fair and honest and righteous, He must pronounce a penalty, He must reject sinfulness. So justice demands that He penalize, that is that He take punitive measure against sinfulness, and that punitive system be call judgment. Righteousness and justice add up to God's holiness. **God's holiness cannot have fellowship with a sinner. But God loves the sinner, therefore God does something about it. He sends His Son.**

When His Son goes to the cross and hangs there, the Son is absolute righteousness in His humanity. He is the only Person to ever be absolute righteousness. He has no old sin nature, He has no imputed sin, He has no personal sin. This satisfies the righteousness of God the Father. The justice of



the Father is also satisfied by the fact that Jesus Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree. He was judged in our place, and therefore the second death of Christ, where He cried out, "My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me," that satisfied the justice of God the Father.

Now God the father is satisfied with the work of Jesus Christ and this means His love can now go through GRACE to man, only by way of the cross. No other way. **The cross is the only way in which God can express His love to mankind, and the only way in which He can give eternal life to the human race.**

So the cross satisfied the Father, which is called "propitiation", and it makes it possible for the Father to give His love and His eternal life to any member of the human race.

But there must be a meeting point, and that point is the cross. Specifically it is, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Now this is the "indignation of the Father," or the wrath of the Father, when a person rejects the date, the meeting place, the point of the cross, then there is no other way to satisfy the Father and His righteousness and His justice.

So the unbeliever, has rejected the only thing that satisfies the Father, therefore instead of knowing love and eternal life, he gets the full blast of the Father's righteousness and the Father's justice, since the cross is the only place that satisfies His righteousness and His justice.

**Since you reject the cross, you are minus the cross, and therefore you must face the full blast of righteousness and justice and that is called here, "indignation."** That is what indignation means, God's righteousness and God's justice. This goes into action with regard to the person who refused to meet Him at the foot of the cross.

The expression of this indignation is the baptism of fire, and this is God's righteousness and justice for the unbeliever. The baptism of the Spirit, found in 1 Corinthians

12:13, is love and eternal life for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 3 says, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire." Holy Spirit for the believer, fire for the unbeliever.

So at the Second Advent of Christ, after the Tribulation, Christ returns, He finds on Earth the same two categories of homosapiens as have always existed on this Earth, the believers and the unbelievers, and in the Tribulation there is no difference. There will be believing Jews and believing Gentiles and there will be unbelieving Jews and unbelieving Gentiles. All believers will go into the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth, in physical bodies, and they will reign with Christ for a thousand years.

The unbeliever will be cast off the Earth and the analogy given is "as in the days of Noah." In the days of Noah unbelievers were cast off the Earth at the time of the judgment of the flood, and the believers continued on the Earth and populated the Earth. And that is exactly what we have here in our passage in Revelation. Matthew 24, "As in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man." "Two shall be in the field, one shall be taken," the unbeliever taken off the Earth. "One shall be left," the believer left on the Earth.

Now this is not the Rapture, but just the opposite. In the Rapture of the Church, all believers will be taken off the Earth and unbelievers will be left on the Earth and go into the Tribulation. Now we have here the antithesis at the Second Advent of Christ.

This is a good way in which everyone should be able to distinguish between the Rapture of the Church, and the Second Advent of Christ, and realize that Matthew is talking about the Second Advent of Christ and not the Rapture of the Church. It is more than a separation of seven years. They are actually antithetical events.

In the Rapture of the Church, all believers are taken off the Earth, and the unbeliever is left on the Earth. At the Second Advent of Christ, all believers are left on the

Earth and the unbelievers are taken off the Earth. The Rapture of the Church is a time of resurrection and blessing. The Second Advent is a time of judgment, "cup of indignation," God's wrath. In Matthew 3:11, 12 we have a dissertation on the baptism of fire, and we have it again in Luke 3:16, 17, which means the unbelievers are baptized, or literally, "identified with fire." There are other dissertations of this same principle through parables. "The wheat," is believers going into the Millennium. "The tares," the unbeliever is cast off the Earth into fire.

In Matthew 25:31-46, we have the Gentile unbelievers going through the baptism of fire. The word "nations" in that passage is literally, Gentiles. In Ezekiel 20 we have Jewish unbelievers going through the baptism of fire. This is the cup of indignation. Notice that the "cup of indignation" is expanded to express just exactly how God feels about it.

Verse 10, "And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone." "He" refers to the unbeliever at the Second Advent of Christ. Verse 10, "in the presence of the holy angels." The angels have another ministry here. They gather them up according to the parable of the wheat and the tares. They actually administer the baptism of fire.

Verse 10 "And in the presence of the Lamb." This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. When He came the first time, Christ drank the cup. When He comes the second time, the unbeliever drinks the cup, because they did not accept His drinking the cup for them. **He took on God's wrath for them. They reject it, so there is no other hope for them.** Righteousness and justice expresses itself in the baptism of fire.

"Presence of the Lamb." This also emphasizes another principle. **There never has been in the history of the human race, including here the Tribulation, an unbeliever who did not have every possible chance to be saved during his or her life time.** The lamb means substitutionary death, the Lamb of God sacrificed for you. "The Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."

Verse 11, "And the smoke of their torment ascended up forever, and will have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." "Forever and ever." This has to be explained mechanically. These people are going to be in fire forever and ever, as of the moment of the administration of the baptism of fire. The unbeliever, both the Jew and the Gentile, are cast into fire. The fire is in a place called, "Hades."

Hades had another compartment which was called, "Paradise." Or called, Abraham's bosom," and this was the place for the Old Testament saints. But, when Christ rose from the dead, they were transferred to the third Heaven. Ephesians 4, 2 Corinthians 12. So this no longer exists. There is no "Abraham's bosom" today. There is no "Paradise" today.

Now the Greek word is "HADES," and the Hebrew word is "SHEOL." Another word which is used in Luke 16, is "Torments." This is a place of fire and all unbelievers are there. At the baptism of fire, these unbelievers are put into HADES or Torments. And at the end of the Millennium, it says in Revelation 20:13, "Hell, or HADES, will deliver up its dead." The unbelievers will be brought up before the great white judgment throne.

They are given resurrection bodies, the second resurrection, and in human bodies they are cast into the Lake of Fire\_ forever and ever. So "forever" means, a thousand years of torments, a brief second resurrection in which they get a physical body in which they will suffer forever and ever and then be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

This is the principle of "forever and ever" in verse 11. "No rest day nor night." Fire and no rest. **There is no rest to those who reject Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Restless, because of the restless one, their father, Satan.** But we have this promise. "Come unto Me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." When you reject Jesus Christ you also reject rest. Hence it is specified in this verse, those who are involved in this operation "Who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever

receives the mark of his name.” We can see from this that hell will be filled with religious people. And they will be baptized, but with fire.

**Here in this passage we have three separate attractions of religion: beast, image, mark. The beast:** This represents an outstanding personality. He is called a “beast” because he is Satan possessed. Beast doesn’t mean that he is an animal. He will be very brilliant, and scintillating, and undoubtedly a genius.

From other passages, of Scripture, like Daniel 7, Daniel 9, Daniel 11, Joel 2, and Joel 3, and many other passages, like 2 Thessalonians, this man who is Satan possessed is very brilliant and attractive personality. **Religion attracts on the basis of personality. Many people are attracted to ecumenical religion on the basis of the personality of its leadership.**

Remember this is opposite from Christianity, because in Christianity **it is not the man, but the message.** The only personality that we are impressed with is Jesus Christ, not the anti-Christ, who is very clever.

**Next, the image.** The second basis of the attraction of religion is the image. This would be a system of worship, or the attraction of ritual. This is ceremonialism. Many people are attracted by ritual. **The idea of doing something appeals to the old sin nature. People have confidence in ritual in that they think they are making points with God through their own works, their own self effort. Works..**

**Next, the mark.** This is the third attraction of religion. This is economics, and this is economic pressure. This is why some people go to church. People attend church because it is to their business advantage to attend. So this is an economic consideration. This is the social gospel.

This mark in the Tribulation, represents the point of no return. There is no longer any restraint on their negative volition, like for example Pharaoh. Like being past the point of having a relationship with Christ.

So in the Tribulation, religion will attract them in one of three ways, or in a combination of ways or all three. Worship of the beast, is personality. The image, is ritualistic attraction, without any reality. Mark is economic attraction. This is quite an interesting combination and in many cases it will probably be all three attractions. Probably from Satan’s platform of “the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and pride the pattern of life.”

Verse 12, “Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” “The patience of the saints.” This is a reference to the believers in the Tribulation. The people who accept Jesus Christ during the Tribulation.

**The word “patience” expresses the perpetuation of their faith in the Word of God, the promises, the doctrines, the mechanics, the plan of God under maximum pressure, in great catastrophe, in great distress.** The trial of your faith, “you will come forth more precious than gold.”

One thing about the tribulational believers is they will learn the Word of God rapidly and in their rapid assimilation of the Word they will utilize it and regardless of how great the pressure is, how great the disaster may be, no matter what kind of pressure will be put upon them, they will continue to put their faith in the promises of God. **They will put their problems in the Lord’s hands and the Lord will answer their prayers** and fulfill the principle of “Vengeance is Mine saith the Lord, I will repay.”

Now this means that believers in the Tribulation will be persecuted like no other believers have ever been persecuted and yet they will do something that many believers have failed to do without these pressures. They will use the principle found in Psalm 55:22 and 1 Peter 5:7. **That is the principle of taking your problems and putting them in the Lord’s hands, under the principle that the Lord is much more capable of handling them than we are.**

The Lord knew billions of years ago that this pressure would occur and He made provision for them. **But you can keep your problems to yourself if you want, and as a result you get into self-induced misery.** When you have pressures and put self under self-induced misery, along with the pressures, it is too much for you to handle by yourself. **You actually put more on you, than the Lord puts on you.**

So in the Tribulation, the believers will put their problems in the Lord's hands. The word, "patience" is used because they are under maximum pressure and yet they continue to use God's Word. They claim God's Word. They put their problems in the Lord's hands, and the fact of persecution and the fact of martyrdom makes absolutely no difference to them. **There is no panic, no hysteria, they are not upset, they are not disturbed mentally,** they move right on and if they die... well even in Heaven, we have the study of their prayers. They come up to the altar, and at the right time the Lord handles the problem.

Apparently in the Tribulation we have maximum use of faith in the promises of God and maximum use of putting the problems in the Lord's hands, knowing that the Lord's timing is perfect.

The promise and the fulfillment maybe some distance apart, but God will fulfill all His promises to you. Some people pray and say, "Well I asked you five minutes ago, and I am still in the same bind, and you haven't done a thing, God. Give me some action now."

**No, when you put your problems in the Lord's hands, you also leave the timing to Him.** He can solve it in two seconds or He can wait. In this case, He waits. Some believers are martyred, but He does fulfill the promise, that is the second coming of Christ. Our deliverances as believers, happen in different points in time according to the individual circumstances of the individual. But the unbelievers get their judgment all at once, all of them at once.

So here then is the patience of the saints. The fulfillment of their faith perpetuated in the promises of God as per Romans 12:19, Romans 5:3. They wait on the Lord under maximum pressure. Wait on the Lord, means to keep trusting in Him. "I waited patiently for the Lord." Wait is one of the strongest words in the Bible for trust.

Verse 12, "Keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." "Of Jesus" is an objective genitive in the Greek, which means, literally, "faith in Jesus." He is the object of faith. So these Tribulational saints have believed in Christ for their salvation, and they also as believers put their faith in the promises of God in maximum pressure situations.

"Keep the commandments of God." "Keep" is literally, "keep that which belongs to you, guard that which belongs to you." There are two words for keeping and guarding. The first word is "PHULASSO," which is a military word which means to guard. The second word, "TERETO" means to keep or guard that which belongs to you. PHULASSO is guarding military property which doesn't belong to you. PHULASSO is impersonal. TERETO means it is very personal. So these believers in the Tribulation guard that which belongs to them which is the Word. So they get into the plan of God, and they are well oriented to the plan of God for their lives.

Verse 13, "And I heard a voice from Heaven saying, unto me. Write blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." John is commanded to write this before he forgets it or before it gets away from him. This is a special reference now to those who are the tribulational martyrs.

"Write", aorist, active, imperative. Aorist tense, right now. Active voice, you do it, and imperative mood is a command. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." "Blessed" is happinesses. "Dead" is the believer in stage 3, eternity. Dying in the Lord, is dying in the sphere of the Lord and GRACE. Dying is while you are here on this Earth. So this is a specific promise to tribulational martyrs of

whom there will be many. The Tribulation will be the worst time in history and we have a lot of believers dying.

After the Rapture of the Church, we have unbelievers only going into the Tribulation. The unbeliever in the Tribulation accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and they are living the Christian way of life and they may live a month, a year, etc. They may have a short Christian life span. But they will come to a "full age." Their testimony will be finished, even if it is a short time. But there are promises of GRACE here for dying because many will be tortured, and martyred under great pressure, yet God will provide GRACE in dying, just as He does in living.

"Blessed are the dead." "Blessed" means inner happinesses, plural. This means there will be inner happiness the moment they depart from this life and there will be inner happiness during the period of dying. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." "Though skin worms destroy this body, I know I will see the Lord face to face."

Verse 13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." "Which die" is the principle of dying within the sphere of God's GRACE. Present, active, participle. Present tense means they will not die suddenly, if they were going to die suddenly, it would be an aorist tense. So we know that most of these people are going to have a prolonged death, which would indicate torture. Present tense, is continuous, and they die slowly. But God will provide for them in dying, just as He does for us in living. "Which die," present tense. Martyrs, patience of the saints. A long time in dying, patience in perpetuating their faith in the promises of God, while in the sphere of dying in GRACE.

"In the Lord." This is their position, "in the Lord." "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." So this is victory, this is home going, no matter how you die or where you die or how long you die, there is still the promise of "No sorrow, no pain, no suffering, no death." You are face to face with the Lord.

Verse 13, "From henceforth." From the beginning of the Tribulation. "Yea, saith the Spirit, that," purpose clause. "They may rest from their labours."

Now "resting" here has several concepts. We know exactly what rest here means. First, they have already rested at the point of salvation. "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." In that verse "rest" is used for salvation. When you believe in Christ, from that moment on God provided for you and at that point of time when you believe in Christ it is divorced from time and perpetuated forever. Your sins and your failures cannot erase that rest. You cannot commit the unpardonable sin, because you are a believer in Christ and **the unpardonable sin, is the act of unbelief in Christ, rejection of Him as Saviour.**

God said "I will save you if you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour." And you say, "No you can't. I have sinned." And that means that you think that your sins are greater than God's strength, God's Word, God's character and God's GRACE, **which is basically pride, ego-centricity, i.e., Satan's problem.**

But now here is something interesting, "No one can pluck you out of My hand." **Not even God Himself can take away your salvation. So how can you or Satan or a demon do it?**

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." You see if God did not have a sense of humor, He would wipe us out for our stupidity, but thank God for His sense of humor. "They know not what they are doing, forgive them Father." **So, when you accept Christ, you are in for eternity, no matter what you do.**

Some still say, well if that is so, goodbye God, I will see you in eternity. I am going to raise hell since I can't lose my salvation. Well yes, but there is Divine discipline. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." God does not tolerate delinquent children. He is not a delinquent parent.

So self-induced misery, plus Divine discipline will make you very, very miserable as a

believer but still saved. You cannot change God's power to save you. Remember, "Salvation is of the Lord." If salvation was of a person, or persons, I am sure people would lose their salvation in a hurry because we all have pet areas of weaknesses. We all have pet areas of holiness, and those who do not line up with our patterns, well we are ready to throw them out.

How many churches have you been thrown out of? Well, you are still saved. Salvation does not depend upon opinions. Either your opinion or my opinion, or your viewpoint or my viewpoint.

**Salvation is strictly the work of the Lord. It depends on the character of God.** So there is no way you can lose your salvation. So that you don't get any ideas, there is a balance in God's plan called Divine discipline. So "rest" means first of all salvation. Since you can't lose your salvation, relax, rest. When you are resting, then all the power comes from the Lord not you.

The second rest means the rest of the believer in time on this Earth. This means you will have problems and adversities and difficulties. Now you can rest, relax in the Word of God and His promises, resting in the Lord. **But the only way you can relax as a Christian is to take your problems and put them in the Lord's hands, rather than handle them yourself.** That is found in 1 Peter 1:7, "Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you." And also in Psalm 55:22.

Why? because, "The battle is the Lord's." **You put your problems in the Lord's hands so that you no longer have a problem. You have pressures, but you can only rest under pressure, when you give them to the Lord.** Dump them, roll them, and cast them on the Lord. Resting and relaxing is in the midst of pressure, but no problem.

Verse 13, "That they may have rest." This is a moment by moment resting in the Lord as a believer. "That" is a purpose clause. God's purpose for believers under greatest disasters and pressures is, "rest,"

and when you rest under pressure circumstances, **which means no fear, no anxiety, no bitterness, no mental instability, and when you rest in maximum pressure, it results in production.**

"And their works do follow them." Literally, their production pursues them. You are under maximum production, the production for the Lord in the Tribulation is fast and this is true of the tribulational saints.

The Tribulation then is a time of maximum pressure, but also a time of maximum production, and that is GRACE. Verses 14-16, we have the fourth angel of judgment.

Verse 14, "And I looked and behold a white cloud and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man having on His head a golden crown and in His hand a sharp sickle." "Like unto the Son of man." This is a title for the Lord Jesus Christ. Son of man, emphasizing His humanity. Second Advent. "Having on His head a golden crown." This means authority. He has the right to judge. He is the Saviour of the world. He has purchased with His own blood the entire human race. This is the principle of unlimited atonement.

And "God the Father hath committed all judgment into His hands." John 5:22. "Crown and sharp sickle." Crown, His authority. Golden crown, Deity. Crown, His sovereignty. And the sharp sickle, expresses judgment, His righteousness and His justice.

Now the judgment that follows is authorized by the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ authorizes these judgments for a reason. **These judgments are authorized because the people involved have rejected Him as their personal Saviour.** They are now violating the principles of anti-semitism in the Tribulation.

There are three great groups of armies that have moved into the land and these last three angels of judgment are going to slaughter the armies involved, so these are military judgments as well.

God's hand in military judgments is very interesting in history. I have never seen any

theologian develop this principle anywhere. And yet there are times in history when an inferior military organization will come up with a fantastic victory under conditions which are never found in military textbooks. And which victories violate all the principles found in text books, so there is obviously something Divine, supernatural, involved in the military victory.

There is a bonafide Divine intervention in the matter of battle field situations. This explains why under certain conditions, a well-trained, well-organized, well-led army will be defeated by a lesser one. God definitely over-ruled with George Washington on Long Island, and the British could have destroyed him, but for the Lord.

Now there is a principle like that in history, and in Scripture. The Assyrian army and Israel, and right here in our passage, the Lord Jesus Christ, with a sharp sickle, which represents military casualties about to occur. Just as a sickle mows down the grass, so God will mow down the invading armies at the end of the Tribulation.

Verse 15, “And another angel came up out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, thrust in thy sickle, and reap, for the time is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the Earth is ripe.” Another angel, here is the fourth angel in context.

“Crying” is shouting with a loud voice, not crying. This angel comes from the temple, where there have been previously the prayers of the tribulational believers, and they have been offered there and stored there. This angel says, “Thrust in thy sickle and reap,” which is an expression that God is going to go into action fulfilling “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay saith the Lord.”

Verse 16, the Lord gives the command. “And He that sat on the cloud trust in His sickle on the Earth, and the Earth was reaped.” Notice it is a very short brief statement. No mechanics or details are given. The details are given in Revelation 19, and amplified in verses 15-17.

Verse 17, the fifth angel. “And another angel came out of the temple which is in

Heaven. He also having a sharp sickle.” In other words, this angel is responsible for killing off part of the army of the Armageddon campaign.

Verse 18, the sixth angel. “And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle saying, thrust in thy sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vines of the Earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” Referring to those who are about to be killed, they are over due, ripe. They have had every opportunity to be saved. They have rejected and just like the religious personnel, they will be judged. **So, unsaved, ungodly, military personnel will be judged. God’s timing is perfect. Whether it involves blessing or judging. God is fair.** They are full, full age. Ripe as corn in season.

Verse 19, 20, the seventh angel. “And the angel thrust in his sickle into the Earth, and gathered the vine of the Earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.” The trampling of the grapes, is an analogy to the killing in battle. Juice of the grapes, a picture of those who are killed in battle.

Verse 20, “And the winepress was trodden without the city, the blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.” “Without the city,” is outside of the city of Jerusalem. This is the deliverance of the Jewish believers who are holding out in the city of Jerusalem. This length given here of the blood flow is 176 miles. This is a fantastic destruction.

So there is a lot to learn from angels. They learn from us and we learn from them, these seven angels and the angel of Jehovah, the Lord Jesus Christ. They are all involved in the “Everlasting Gospel” to the whole world during the Tribulation, which is the worst time in all of human history. God always is faithful in presenting the Gospel to the human race.

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