**Book of Revelation**, **Part 5...**

**Rev. 14 amp An interlude between the Trumpets and the Bowls**

**Rev. 14:1-5 The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion**

“...I saw: the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had His name and His Father’s name inscribed on their foreheads...[Joel 2:32

 “...and they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased (ransomed, redeemed) from the earth. [Rev 7:4-8]

 “These are the ones who have not been defiled [by relations] with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased and redeemed from among the men [of Israel] as the first fruits [sanctified] and set apart for special [service] for God and for the Lamb. [Mark 8:34]

 “No lie was found in their mouth, for they are blameless (spotless, unblemished, beyond reproach).”

 There is a lot of controversy as to what else, if anything, these men will be doing. Some people believe they will minister to the unbelievers during the last part of the tribulation; others believe they will minister to the remainder of human beings that will be living during the millenium years. We may have to wait until closer to the time to find out the truth. Fact: they exist and follow the Lamb. That may be their only duty.

**Vs. 6, 7** **Angel with the Gospel**

 “John saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to preach to the inhabitants of the earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people; [Rom 1:1-4; I Cor 15:3-5; Gal 1:6, 7]

 “and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who created the heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

**Vs. 8 Doom for Proud Babylon**

 “Then another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink the wine of the passion of her immorality [corrupting them with idolatry]. [Is 21:9; Dan 4:30, 31; Rev 17:2]”

**Vs. 9-13 Doom for Worshipers of the Beast**

“Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, Whoever worships the beast and his image (Anti-christ and helper] and receives the mark [of the beast] on his forehead or on his hand,

 “he too will drink of the wrath of God, mixed undiluted into the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone (flaming sulphur) in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb (Christ). [Gen 19:24; Jer 25:15, 16; Luke 12:9]

 “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night – Those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”[Is 34:10; Mark 9:48]

 “Here is [encouragement for] the steadfast endurance of the saints (God’s people], those who *habitually* keeps God’s commandments and their faith in Jesus.

 “Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) are the dead who die from now on!” “Yes, [blessed indeed],” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest and have relief from their labors, for their deeds do follow them.”

 For those reading these words it is time to take action and ask God’s forgiveness for a sinful life and then follow him while eagerly looking forward to the rapture. It will be before the second half of these terrible things...could be any day between now and then. The Bible does not tell us the date, just that it will happen as stated at the beginning of this mini series.

**Vs. 14-20 The Reapers**

 “Again John looked, and this is what he saw: a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was One like the Son of Man, with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp sickle [of swift judgement] in His hand. [Dan 7:13, 14; Matt 13:30, 40-42]

 “And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to Him who was sitting upon the cloud, ‘Put in Your sickle and reap [at once], for the hour to reap [in judgment] has arrived, because the earth’s harvest is fully ripened.” [Joel 3:13]

 “So He who was sitting on the cloud cast His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped (judged).

 “Then an another angel came out of the temple (sanctuary) in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

 “And another angel came from the altar, the one who has power over fire; and he called with loud voice, saying, “Put in your sickle and reap the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because the grapes are ripe [for judgment].” [Luke 9:54}

 “So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and harvested the grapevine of the earth, and threw the grapes into the great wine press of the wrath and indignation of God [as judgment of the rebellious world]. [Is 63:3]

 “And *the grapes* in the wine press were trampled and crushed outside the city, and blood poured from the wine press, *reaching* up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of sixteen hundred stadia. [Joel 3:13; Heb 13:12]”

 This is a warning of what is still to come! The vines covered in grapes are cut down by the first angel. The second angel cuts the grapes off the vine ready for the winepress. The winepress represents the wrath of God, the fire of his indignation and terrible calamity. The location of the winepress was outside the city (Babylon? That is in following chapters.), where the army was located that has come against Babylon. God will destroy them in a tremendous battle as mentioned in the last verse above. There will be more about this in the next scriptures.

**Rev. 15:1-8 A Scene of Heaven – A short interlude**

 “Than I (John) saw another sign in heaven, great and wonderful [a warning of terrifying and horrible events]: seven angels who had seven plagues (afflictions, calamities), *which are* the last, because with them the wrath of God is finished [that is, is completely expressed and reaches its zenith]. [Lev 26:21]

 “Then I saw something like a sea or large expanse of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and over his image and over the number corresponding to his name were standing on the sea...holding harps of God [worshipping Him]. [Rev 4:6; 7:9-17]

 And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

 Use your Bible to read the following song that they sang, a song of worship to God! [Ps 86:9; Jer 10:7; Phil 2:9-11]

**Vs. 5-8** “After these things...the temple (sanctuary) of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues (afflictions, calamities) came out of the temple, arrayed in linen, pure and gleaming, and wrapped around their chests were golden sashes.

 “Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath and indignation of God, who lives forever and ever. [Rev 4:6]

 “And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory and radiance and splendor of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels was finished. [Ex 33:9, 10; I Kin 8:10; Is 6:4; Ezek 44:4]

**Rev. 16:1-12 Six Bowls of Wrath**

 “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath and indignation of God.” {Ps 69:224; Is 66:6]

 “So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and loathsome and malignant sours came on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. [Ex 9:10, 11; Deut 28:35]

 “The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a corpose [foul and disgusting]’ and every living thing in the sea died.

 “Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water; and they turned into blood. [Ex 7:17-21]

 “And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous and just are You, Who are and Who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things;

 “For they have poured out the blood of the saints (God’s people) and the prophets, and You [in turn] have given them blood to drink. They deserve Your judgement. [Ps 79:3]

 “And I heard [another from] the altar saying, “ Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty [the Omnipotent, the Ruler of all], Your judgements are true and fair and righteous.” [Ps 119:137]

 “Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch humanity with [raging] fire.

 “People were [severely] burned by the great heat; and they reviled the name of God who has power over these plagues, but they did not repent [of their sin] and glorify Him.

 “Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness; and people gnawed their tongues because of the pain [of their excruciating anguish and severe torment], [Ex 10:21]

 “and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their anguish and their sores (abscesses, boils); and they did not repent of whaat they had done nor hate their wickedness.

 “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the was would be prepared for [the coming of] the kings from the east [Is11:15, 16]

**Vss. 13-16 Armageddon**

 “And I saw three loathsome spirits like frogs, *leaping* from the mouth of the dragon (Satan) and from the mouth of the beast (Antichrist, dictator) and from the mouth of the false prophet (beast from the earth); [Ex 8:3; I Kings 22:21-23]

 “for they are [actually] the spirits of demons, performing [miraculous] signs. And they go out to the kings of the earth, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

 “(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake and who keeps his clothes [that is, stays spiritually ready for the Lord’s return] so that he will not be naked – spiritually unprepared – and men will not see his shame.”) [Matt. 24:42-44; I Thess 5:2-4]

 “And they (demons) gathered the kings and armies of the world together at the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon (Armageddon).

 This battle will require time to prepare for it, therefore the further account of it is left for future chapters. Other things will happen in the meantime.

**Vss. 17-21 Seventh Bowl of Wrath**

 **“**Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne [of God] saying, “It is done.” [It is all over, it is all accomplished, it has come.]”

 “And there were flashes of lightning and loud rumblings and peals of thunder; and theire was a massive earthquake – nothing like it has ever occurred since mankind originated on earth, so severe and far-reaching was that earthquake.[Ex 19:16-18; Dan 12:1

 “The great city [Babylon]was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And God kept in mind Babylon the great, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce and furious wrath.

 “Then every island fled away, and no mountains could be found.

 “And giant hailstones, as heavy as a talent, fell from the sky on the people; and the people reviled and spoke abusively of God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so very great. [Ex 9:22-25]

 The detailed story of Babylon will be in the next part of this mini series, Part 6... see you there. Just 2 parts left, the best parts will be after Babylon...