

## Preached into all the World

Speakers notes of a sermon given in November 2005 at N.W.Church of God.

Some years ago we learned that in keeping the Hebrew Calendar we were not keeping the calendar kept by Jesus Christ, because the Hebrew Calendar did not take it's present form until almost 1000 years after Christ's death. After we changed to follow the example of Christ and start God's year with the true Abib – the month of the firstfruit barley harvest in Israel (Leviticus 23:10-16), Christ led us to recognize that He will return for His firstfruit saints three and a half years before the establishment of the Kingdom of God here on the earth – that is, at the very time the firstfruits are harvested in Israel, and at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal of Revelation 6. How rich and meaningful are God's Holy Days !

Having been forced into re-structuring our understanding of end time events, we then had to clarify the preceding 5 seals. Now, we believe that God has placed one more difficult piece of the end-time jigsaw into position, and the picture is much clearer. This understanding may well indicate that we have entered the time of the end spoken in Daniel 12:9.

Please study these scriptures with an open mind. It may be that they will dramatically affect the end-time role of God's church, and in turn will convict and sustain many amongst the innumerable multitude of Rev 7.

The pieces of the jigsaw that God has placed into position are the verses in Rev 14:6-7. This is the everlasting or eternal gospel or good news of the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom here on the earth. Included is the warning of verse 7, but just as folk speak of the good news without any reference to Christ's accompanying warning to repent, they will similarly be deceived into ignoring the instruction in verse 7 to "Fear God" and give Him **genuine** worship, because the great deceiver Satan will once again deceive the whole world.

This whole inset chapter has been neglected by many, but is just as significant as Matthew 24 !

First, it pictures the resurrected saints on Mt Zion in heaven (Hebrews 12:22).

Then, from v 6-20 it revises the main events of the last 7 years leading up to the final return of Christ with His saints, enabling us to recognise when the end of the age occurs. (Matthew 24:3,14) The age in question is the dispensation we, and the apostles lived in. The next age is the period when Christ will usher in His kingdom here on the earth, starting with the first seal of Revelation 6, or the first angel of Revelation 14.

1. The very first event is miraculous and unmistakable, so we will know when we enter into the last 7 years. (Rev 14:6-7) As a result of that message about Christ's return, mainstream Christianity then preaches 'peace and safety' 1

Thessalonians 5:3, - ‘all you need to do is believe and you’re saved !’ This is the deception referred to in Matt 24:4-5, a deception about the 1<sup>st</sup> Seal, the everlasting or eternal gospel of Rev 14 v6.

2. Notice that the 1<sup>st</sup> angel’s message goes out before the 2<sup>nd</sup> angel announces the fall of the physical Babylon (verse 8) - see Revelation 18, as opposed to the great false church, the religious Babylon of Revelation 17. The removal of this great trading nation, the world’s policeman, brings on the next 3 horses of Revelation 6 - wars, famines and pestilences, to complete the first 4 seals.
3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> angel warns against involvement with the Beast power in Europe v 9-13. This shows that the Beast only begins to arise after Babylon (Jacob – the two nations of Manasseh and Ephraim, USA & Britain) falls. It is the Beast who instigates the persecution of God’s people at the 5<sup>th</sup> seal, because they stand up to deny that he is the returned Christ, then claiming to be establishing his kingdom here on the earth.
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> angel announces the harvest of the firstfruit saints at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, v 14-15, ( Matthew 13:30, 37-39, Matthew 24:31). This harvest takes place at the time of the firstfruit harvest in Israel (Leviticus 23: 10) just over three and a half years before Christ’s final return with His saints. Zechariah 14:5.
5. The last 2 angels together -v 17,18, precede the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, - the vintage of God’s wrath – the events of the great Tribulation during the last 3 and a half years before the Kingdom is established.

And so this neglected chapter adds to our ability to assemble the pattern of end-time events, but the first angel’s preaching of the gospel will be so dramatic that the whole world will be shocked ! It will be a spiritual marker that no-one can ignore !

So, exactly what happens ? How will this angel reach the whole world with this witness of Christ’s coming return, and the need to repent ? This is God’s **final** worldwide appeal to **all** people everywhere to recognise Him as the one true God and Jesus Christ as the one who was the hands on Creator of all. Rev 14:7.

We will find the answer by putting together scriptures that we have not so far recognised were connected.

First, lets understand the meaning of some commonly used phrases in the bible, descriptive of the end time.

“The Day of the Lord” is that period at the end of human history which starts just after Christ comes for His elect. Rev 7:1-3, 8:1. Essentially it starts with the seventh seal being opened as God begins to pour out His plagues upon unrepentant mankind.

The “latter days” or “last days” designates the Messianic era of the Kingdom of God Isaiah 2:2, largely from the time the 1<sup>st</sup> angel of Revelation 14 begins to proclaim His message.

Now lets go to Joel 2: 28-32. It is interesting to note that in the original Hebrew this is a quite different subject from the preceding verses as can be seen from the marker in your bible at verse 28. Not only that but it was a new chapter, chapter 3, in the original Hebrew. The word “afterward” looks forward far beyond the locust plague, to Israel’s final deliverance from her enemies. His vision anticipates a first fulfilment on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, and a final realization just before the Day of the Lord, which commences with the 7<sup>th</sup> seal. (Isaiah 13:6-9, Zephaniah 1:14-15) and leads up to Christ’s victory at Armageddon.

Lets notice that the word “flesh” in Joel 2:28 is 1320 in Strongs Concordance, which is further defined as “mankind” there and also more specifically so in Brown- Driver- Briggs – the most respected Hebrew lexicon used at Hebrew University.

This worldwide spiritual experience for all mankind can be positioned by what follows. Rev 6:12-14, - the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, when all men see Christ’s arrival in the heavens, verse 16.

In Matthew 24:27-31, note verse 29. The “tribulation of those days” then, occurs before the heavenly signs and includes the first 5 seals; then comes Christ for His saints, and after the heavenly signs, the last 3 and a half years of the day of the Lord, Joel 2:30-31.

So, the 1<sup>st</sup> angel reaches all men with the eternal gospel (Matthew 4:17) – the good news that Christ is coming to rule the earth, right at the start of the last seven years, before the “tribulation of those days”.

Now let’s read Acts 2:17-20. “The last days” was not found in Joel’s prophesy but was added by Peter under divine inspiration. The age of the gospel was the preliminary stage in the Messianic Age; so Peter applied this prophesy to the events of Pentecost, but look at verses 19-20. This last half of the prophesy from Joel (The Day of the Lord) was not fulfilled in Peter’s day, revealing an event to occur at the true “last days”.

Most significant is Acts 2:21. This future outpouring of the Holy Spirit will bring salvation to those who **act** on the visions and dreams they receive. What then, could those visions and dreams be but the eternal gospel the angel preached, - the same gospel of the Kingdom of God preached by John the Baptist and Jesus Christ and God’s Church, which includes the message to repent ! How simple, how logical and obvious. But then, Daniel 12:4 (Amplified Version) “But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the Book until the time of the end. [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the book], and knowledge [of God’s purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.”

Thus we see that the 1<sup>st</sup> angel of Revelation 14 preaches in the last days which occur just before the Day of the Lord. To be precise, as we saw from the events in Revelation 14, right at the start of those last days, some 7 years before Christ's final return.

The eternal gospel he preaches is provided by dreams and visions to every man, woman and child- to all mankind, as we saw from the Hebrew. That event will be so vivid, so universal and so staggering, that every newspaper, every radio broadcast, every television station worldwide will be full of it, and vast numbers will believe. Sadly, very many, the majority, will overlook and fail to follow the angel's instruction of Revelation 14:7. but how and why that happens is for another time.

He does not preach in vain though, for his message does bear fruit. Revelation 7:9, 13-17. A great multitude do repent !

All the signs indicate that we have entered the last generation (Matthew 24:34) in which **all** these things will occur. If that is so, when the first angel flies, and you personally receive his message, don't be deceived by those who then preach peace and safety. Repent, if you have not already done so, or you will not be spared the Great Tribulation, or Day of the Lord !

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