

Preached into all the World

What follows is history now, but explains that God is continually working to ensure that His Plan is fulfilled and that He will do nothing until He has revealed it beforehand to His servants, Amos 3:7, *'Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.'* The Churches have believed until now that they have the responsibility to completely fulfil Matthew 24:14, *'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.'* As you will see, that is not the case.

Speakers notes of a sermon given in November 2005 at N.W.Church of God, UK by its then pastor, ozwitness.

Some years ago we learned that in keeping the Hebrew Calendar to establish God's Holy Days, we were not keeping the calendar kept by Jesus Christ, because the Hebrew Calendar did not take its 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, *'Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest.'*), 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 6th seal of Revelation 6. How rich and meaningful is the pattern of 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, *'And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'*

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, *'And I saw another angel fly 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, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'*

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, *'But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.'* 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 begins. Matthew 24:3,14 *'And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 14 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.'*

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 angel of Revelation 14 and 3 ½ years later followed by the first seal of Revelation 6.

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, *'And I saw another angel fly 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, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'* As a result of that message about Christ's return, mainstream Christianity then preaches 'peace and safety,' 2Thessalonians 5:3, *'For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.'* - This is the deception referred to in Matt 24:4-5, a deception about the 1st Seal, 'all you need to do is believe and you're saved !'

2. Notice that the 1st angel's message goes out before the 2nd angel announces the fall of the physical, geographical Babylon, Revelation 14:8, *'And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, [people, cf Matthew 8:34] because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'* - see Revelation 18, as opposed to that 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 3rd angel warns against involvement then with the Beast power in Europe, Revelation 14 : 9-13, *'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, 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: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 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 labours; and their works do follow them.'* This shows that the Beast only begins to arise after the end-time nations of Babylon (Jacob – the two nations of Manasseh and Ephraim, USA & Britain) fall. It is the Beast who instigates the persecution of God's people at the 5th seal, because they stand up to deny that he is the returned Christ, 2 Thessalonians, 2:4, *'Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.'*

4. The 4th angel announces the harvest of the firstfruit saints at the 6th seal of Revelation 6. Rev. 14: 14-15, *'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. 15And another angel came 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.'* This is also described in, Matthew 24:30-31, *'And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.'* This harvest takes place at the time of the firstfruit harvest in Israel (Leviticus 23:10) just three and a half years before Christ's final return with His saints.

5. The last 2 angels together –Revelation 14 verses 17-19, *'And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 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 vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 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,'* precede the 7th seal –which is the vintage of God's wrath – the events of the Great Tribulation during the last 3 and a half years before the Kingdom of God is established here on the earth.

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 during the first angel of Revelation 14's announcement ? 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, let's 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 7:2, *'And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the [7th] seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.'*

Essentially it starts with the seventh seal being opened as God begins to pour out His plagues upon unrepentant mankind; and then 8:1, *'And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.'*

The "latter days" or "last days" designates the Messianic era of the Kingdom of God, Isaiah 2:2, *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it,'* beginning largely from the time the 1st angel of Revelation 14 begins to proclaim His message.

Now let's go to Joel 2: 28-32, *'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.'*

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 7th seal. (Isaiah 13:6-9, Zephaniah 1:14-15) and leads up to Christ's victory at Armageddon.

Let's notice that the word "flesh" in Joel 2:28 is 1320 in Strong's 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, *'And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places,'* - the 6th seal, when all men see Christ's arrival in the heavens, verse 16, *'And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.'*

In Matthew 24:27-31, *'For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then*

shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.'

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. *'And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.'*

So, the 1st angel reaches all men with the eternal gospel Matthew 4:17, *'From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'* – 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, *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.'* "The last days" was not found in Joel's prophecy 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 prophecy to the events of Pentecost, but look at verses 19-20. This last half of the prophecy 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, *'And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

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 1st 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, *'Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters,'* - but how and why that happens is for another time.

He does not preach in vain though, for his message does eventually bear fruit, though after the resurrection at the 6th Seal. Revelation 7:9,13-17. *'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst*

of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.' A great multitude do repent, in the Great Tribulation of the 7th Seal, during which the majority of the earth's population will lose their lives.

All the signs indicate that we have entered the last generation, spoken of in Matthew 24:34, in which all these things will occur. *'Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.'*

If that is so, when the first angel flies, and you personally receive his message (for the second time,) 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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