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THE ANGEL WITH THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
REVELATION 14:6-8
NUMBER 23

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REVELATION 14:6-8 "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, 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. 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."

These next verses deal with seven angels, and then seven more angels. Elect angels do a lot of judging as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. We first see the judgment of the seven angels, then Satan is cast out of heaven, and God judges the earth. This is Revelation 14:6-20. It is the passage of "The seven angels of judgment".

First angel of judgment is in verses 6 and 7. The idea presented in these verses is that grace always precedes judgment. Before the angels administer any judgment there is always God's attempt to avoid it. So we have this principle--God at no place and at no time ever judges anyone without first giving ample opportunity for the judgment to be avoided. This is the fairness of God which comes from his righteousness and justice which is his holiness. In other words, man always gets a fair shake. I don't know of anyone who really deserves to be alive. I never have met an individual who is so good that he deserves anything from God. But here we are, monuments to the grace of God.

REVELATION 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" In this verse following the words "To every nation" there should be a semicolon. There are four divine institutions, namely--volition, marriage, the family and the nation. Satan is in the business of trying to destroy nations. So following the word "nations" in our passage we have the manner in which God divides nations. The word kindred refers to race, and the racial division shows that God divided the nations racially. Sometimes a nation may conclude that their race is a super-race and they may try to take over other nations or even the whole world. We have seen this happen in history. Most nations are made up of many races or a blending of several races. It is indeed a false assumption for one race to claim superiority over other races. Racial superiority is a myth. In the periods of the centuries races rise and fall. The United States is not a racial national unit. We are actually composed of many races. The word tongues here refers to language divisions. Some nations are not strong because they have so many languages.

India has many languages and they have been conquered century after century. With so many people speaking different languages it is hard to mould people into a strong national unit. Language is a very strong national force. Alexander the Great faced this when he took over all of the Greeks. He found them speaking different dialects and before he could go out and conquer the world he had to establish one set language for all. This he did and he spread Koine Greek throughout the whole world. The third word is people and this refers to a geographical unit. Now all three of these boundaries are for the good of the nations.

The flying of angels in the heaven refers to the first heaven, the earthly atmosphere. This refers to angels visiting the earth and giving the gospel to all kinds of people.

When angels appear to men they take on human form. This was the case when the three angels visited Abraham, they appeared as men. Notice this verse says that these angels gave men the "everlasting gospel". The gospel message has always been the same in every age and in every generation. No one has ever been saved by keeping the Mosaic Law or by offering animal sacrifices. Abel wasn't saved by offering an animal sacrifice, he was saved by having faith in Christ. The everlasting gospel means that Jesus Christ has always been the saviour. Jesus Christ is not an English word. Jesus is a Hebrew word for Joshua and Christ is a Greek word for Messiah. We say Jehovah but the Jews would not pronounce that name. It was too sacred. We take the vowels of the word "to be" and double them and you get Jehovah. God and the Lord have been given many names, but the person is the same. So people have always been saved in the same way for "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Christ is both God and man and he is the only Saviour. He had to become man to save us, for God cannot go to the cross and die. Adam and Eve believed in Christ and they were saved. Abel was saved for he too believed in Christ. Cain was not saved because he rejected Christ. They didn't use the word Christ but they believed in him. Now from this do not conclude that if you believe in God that is all that counts. I didn't say that. Jesus is given many different names in many different languages, but he is always the one in salvation. That is why we have here the words "everlasting Gospel". Every person who has ever been saved or will ever be saved must believe in Christ. That's why we sing--

"I must needs go home by the way of the cross,
There's no other way but this".

People who go on positive signals always get a chance. It has always been this way. The object of faith is always Jesus Christ.

First, we see "the Gospel of Christ".

ROMANS 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Next Paul says "My Gospel".

ROMANS 2:16 "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

Next it is called "Our Gospel".

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Then "the Gospel of Peace".

EPHESIANS 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"

Then "the Gospel of the Kingdom".

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."

Some people think that each is a different gospel. The word gospel means "good news". It is always the same and it is defined by scripture. We read that "all have sinned" and "the wages of sin is death". Is that good news? Certainly not. That is bad news. It is true but it is not good news. The good news begins at this point, that at the cross all of our sins were poured out on Christ and he bore them all. He bore every sin for every man in the whole earth, past, present and future. Now that is

good news. So many times our major emphasis is on the terrible sins of the people then just at the end we may mention something about believing in Christ so we can be saved. But sin as an issue does not stand between any man and God. Christ dealt with that on the cross. Sin has been judged once and for all. No sin will ever be mentioned at the judgment. Christ is the issue. People who go to hell will be the people who have rejected Christ. The good, self-righteous, legalistic people will go there judged on the basis of their works. We call it human good. So the issue is human good versus divine good. At the point of salvation God does 34 things for us. None of these 34 things can ever be undone. You may walk down an aisle and reaffirm your faith. Does that mean that God didn't do a good job in the first place? Certainly not. It is like the blind leading the blind. So many times we say, "I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour but he wasn't Lord". That is simply not true. It is absolutely absurd. We believe and he becomes our Saviour and our Lord. Here is a point of time when we believe and God takes that point of time out of time and he perpetuates it forever. The 34 things that God does for us goes on forever. But so many come along and say, "Jesus is not Lord of your life and you need to make him Lord. He is not Lord at all unless he is Lord of all". That is absolutely blasphemy. You see, we are trying to read human experience over into our salvation. Many people have some great spiritual experience and then they go out in life and bump up against real problems and they fall on their faces. The reason is they don't have any doctrine in their minds. Then someone invites them to a Saturday morning breakfast and they go and someone stands up and tells them the thing they need is to learn how to speak in tongues. It is blasphemy. Tongues mean either you are psychologically duped or demon possessed, and you can take your pick. Only people who are speaking in tongues today are engostromuthos demons, or people who have had a psychological fit. The last time anyone really spoke in tongues was in 70 A.D. and then it was a warning to the Jews that discipline was coming to them. In the Tribulation the Devil's man is going to speak in tongues to confuse many. "To preach unto them" means to give the everlasting gospel to them. It is an aorist, active, infinitive and means in the point of time of the Tribulation angels will do the preaching and the infinite means it is God's purpose for them to hear it. In spite of all Satan's attempts in the Tribulation there will still be nations and evangelism.

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." The loud voice here means "a loud and clear voice" We are told by this voice to "Fear God". This is what we get in the next chapters. It is the Gospel of fear. People are nearing eternity and they must be awakened to realize doom is just ahead unless they believe in Christ. It is "Fear The God, Jesus Christ". Christ is the manifest one of the Godhead. Both Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all called Jehovah but the manifest Jehovah is always Jesus Christ. Christ is about to return and all unbelievers will be cast off the earth so fear of eternity is the motive used here. Then when Christ returns those who are unbelievers will be judged. Fear is a bona fide means of bringing people to Jesus Christ. Fear of judgment is a bona fide means of bringing people to Christ just before the final end. "Give glory of him" means there is only one way to do this and this is accept Christ through faith on the basis of grace. He did it all and he gets all the glory. So the term "Give God the glory" is exactly the same as "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ". "For the hour of his judgment is about to come." We are told to worship him who is the creator.

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"

Christ is presented as the creator. God planned it, Christ carried out the plan, the Holy Spirit furnished the power behind the plan.

In the first line of Genesis we read, "In the beginning Elohim created the earth". Elohim is plural and it means that all three members of the Godhead had the same ten essence qualities. But we know from other passages that the one active in creation was Jesus Christ.

REVELATION 14:8 "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." This is the second angel of judgment. The first angel gives a warning of judgment. The second angel brings judgment. All religion is to be judged. Babylon is fallen. "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great." The first use of Babylon in scripture is in Genesis 11. It was the first attempt to destroy nations and make one great international organization. God disapproved. God took the one race and one language and broke it up into many races and many languages. Babylon the great represents internationalism trying to destroy nations. Babylon the great is described in great detail in Revelation 17 and 18. Babylon the great is ecumenical religion in the Tribulation. Religion is the Devil's ace trump. Christianity is not a religion. Religion is the counterfeit God. So the Devil has counterfeit ministers, counterfeit churches, a counterfeit gospel and counterfeit spirituality. Religion is referred to as the spiritual fornication of the great whore. This is the ecumenical system of the Tribulation. All nations were touched by this system and thereby, drank down their own damnation.

In this connection we can read 2 Thess. 2:7-10.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." The Holy Spirit is the restraining force, holding this destruction back.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:8 "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" This wicked one who is to be revealed we will study in Revelation 19.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" Satan's power--this is his method. Healings and tongues.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." They reject doctrine therefore they are deceived.

Religion is sucked in because we reject the truth. In the mind a vacuum comes when we reject Bible truth and in comes religion to fill the empty space.

So we are warned to stay away from this kind of thing. We are not to drink it. So all the nations are made to drink of it and in so doing they drink wrath.