"A man's most glorious actions will at last be found to be but glorious sins, if he hath made himself, and not the glory of God, the end of those actions."
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REVELATION CHAPTER FOURTEEN
Handout Twenty
Prayer Study #419
First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia

Revelation 14

The Lamb on Mount Zion

14 *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had His name and His Father's name inscribed on their foreheads.*

This first verse is so full of meaning. The Lamb is Jesus, and He is standing on Mount Zion, the highest point in Jerusalem, the city of the great King and the place from which Jesus will reign. Psalm 2:6 reads: *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.* There is so much symbolism connected with Mount Zion, and we have spoken of its meaning often, but I would like to review some of that because I think it is extremely important that we understand the significance of Mount Zion.

The Lord God, knowing all the way from the beginning to the end, caused the writing of the Bible to be done in such a way that many of the persons, places, offices, institutions, and events were meant to be viewed as anticipatory of what was to come. In this sense, I believe that He is calling forth today a Zion Company of believers who will be the overcoming, fired-up, passionate, loving not their lives to the death, church within the church believers of the Last Days. If Israel types the Church of the Living God (and we don't have to become Jews to be Israel and follow the Torah, because we were grafted in the vine, according to Romans 11), then we are spiritual Israel. Jerusalem types the Spirit-baptized believers who are not walking in carnality after the things of the flesh. Finally, Zion types the overcomers in the Church, and I believed these are the believers who have been baptized with fire. It is the place where all believers should aspire to be.

The *International Bible Dictionary* says this about Zion: "*Zion in the natural is the highest and southernmost mount of Jerusalem. It was a fortified city of the Jebusites till subdued by David, and thenceforward was often called 'the city of David.' (2nd Samuel 5"7, 1st Kings 8:1). He seems to have greatly delighted in its beauty and strength and to have loved it as a type of the church of the Messiah (Psalm 48). It is also sometimes used*

figuratively in scripture for the seat of the true church on earth and in heaven (Jeremiah 8:19, Hebrews 12:22, and Revelation 14:1).”

A scriptural search of Zion is fascinating. These are some of the characteristics you will find in scripture of this place:

a. Holy Place-Psalm 2:6
b. The Dwelling of the Lord-Psalm 9:11
c. The Place of the Glory of the Lord-Psalm 102:16
d. The Place of the Rod of His Strength-Psalm 110:2
e. The Place of His Blessing-Psalm 128:5
f. A Place of Singing-Psalm 137:3
g. A Place of Joy-Psalm 149:2
h. A Place of Shouting-Isaiah 12:6
i. A Place of a Quick Answer from the Lord-Isaiah 30:19
j. A Place of the Fire of the Lord-Isaiah 31:9
k. A Place where sinners and hypocrites are full of fear-Isaiah 33:14
l. A Place of Salvation-Isaiah 46:13
m. A Place of Joy, Gladness, and the Comfort of the Lord-Isaiah 51:3
n. A Place where the Redeemer shall come - Isaiah 59:20
o. A Place where the sons of those who have afflicted you and despised you shall bow down at your feet and call you, “The Zion of the Holy One of Israel”-Isaiah 60:14
p. A Place of Beauty for Ashes, the Oil of Joy for Mourning, the Garment of Praise for the Spirit of Heaviness-Isaiah 61:3
q. A Place of a Quick Work of the Spirit-Isaiah 66:8
r. A Place of Restoration of the Backslidden-Jeremiah 3:14
s. A Place to Blow the Trumpet, Sanctify a Fast, Call a Solemn Assembly-Joel 2:1
t. A Place of the Former and Latter Rain-Joel 2:23
u. A Place where the Lord will restore what the enemy has taken - Joel 2:25
v. A Place of Deliverance-Joel 2:32
w. A Place of Hope and Strength-Joel 3:16
x. A Place of Travail and Birthing-Micah 4:10
y. A Place of woe for those who have been lukewarm and at ease concerning the Lord’s work-Amos 6:1
z. A Place where Righteousness shall go forth-Isaiah 62:1

In summary, Zion is a place of *being* in God, a place where praise to the Lord is perfected, a place of His continual presence. I believe in my own heart that we will corporately come unto Mount Zion when we enter into a new place of Worship and Praise that is devoid of competition, performance,

fear of man, disunity, self-gratification, etc. And I think that verses in Hosea give us a clue: Hosea 10:12-*Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you,* and Hosea 6:3-*Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

But there is also His timing that I wait expectantly for and which is beyond our control. We are to make ourselves ready and available, and we are to be expectant, but He is in control and has a plan, and it is His perfect timing that we pray for. The right thing at the wrong time is disaster, much in the sense of a baby being born prematurely and having to struggle for years to catch-up. This very significant time in history when the Lord is preparing His people for a new thing is not the time to jump immaturely ahead of the Lord and struggle for years to catch up and reach the maturity of the Bride without spot and blemish that He is waiting for. We must wait on the Lord

Notice that this 144, 000 has been marked by the Lord with the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father on their foreheads. I believe this means that that company of believers will not be distracted by the things of this world but will constantly be thinking about Jesus and the Father.

I am not sure who these 144,000 are, but it is comforting to note that Jesus did not lose one of those 144,000 who were sealed in Chapter 7. Here they are again having come through the Great Tribulation.

The Song Which Only God's Own Can Learn

2 *And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of great waters and like the rumbling of mighty thunder; the voice I heard [seemed like the music] of harpists accompanying themselves on their harps.*

3 *And they sang a new song before the throne [of God] and before the four living creatures and before the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin]. No one could learn [to sing] that song except the 144,000 who had been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from the earth.*

The voice of the Lord was a voice of power, like the sound of great waters and thunder, but it was also a melodic voice of beautiful sound. These 144,000 sang a new song. J Vernon McGee says that these 144,000 are still on the earth, and this scene is at the start of the Millennium where this company will rule and reign with Christ, who is ruling from Mount Zion. All of heaven and earth are in harmony and tranquility. This is a great contrast to

the scene in Chapter 13 where the beast was reigning.

4 *These are they who have not defiled themselves by relations with women, for they are [pure as] virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These are they who have been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from among men as the first fruits for God and the Lamb.*

This is another one of those enigmas in the book of Revelation. Just who are these virgins? Is verse 4a metaphorical? Is it literal? Is it spiritual? J. Vernon McGee sees these 144,000 as literally men who did not marry during the Great Tribulation, much as Jeremiah was forbidden by the Lord from marrying during the terrible days of the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 16:1-4) because the times were so frightful.

Barclay analyzes this point from all angles and reminds us that the teachings of the New Testament glorify marriage, comparing marriage to the relationship that Christ has with His Church. In fact the writer to the Hebrews says, *"Let marriage be held in honor by all"* (Hebrews 13:4). Barclay says that scribes who were copying the New Testament often wrote notes and comments on the side to explain the text. He believes that a monk gave his opinion on the side or in the notes when he was copying the text and later scribes included the opinion in the text as actual scripture. Barclay says this often happened. He believes that the first half of verse 4 does not contain the words of John at all but is the comment of a scribe. I am uncomfortable with this position, but I include it as a possible explanation.

Note that this company follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They are the first fruits. The first fruits were the best of the crop and were given as a symbolic dedication of the whole harvest to God.

5 *No lie was found to be upon their lips, for they are blameless (spotless, untainted, without blemish) before the throne of God*.

This company was without blemish. The Greek word used here is *amomos* and is mostly used as a word of sacrifice which describes the animal that is without spot or blemish and thus is fit for an offering to God. The word is often used in the New Testament to describe Christians. We are reminded that the Church must be glorious, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind (Ephesians 5:27). None of us in our own self will be blameless any more than these were blameless. We all are blameless because of the Blood of Jesus that continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1st John 1:7).

The Summons to the Worship of God

6 *Then I saw another angel flying in midair, with an eternal Gospel (good news) to tell to the inhabitants of the earth, to every race and tribe and language and people.*
7 And he cried with a mighty voice, Revere God and give Him glory (honor and praise in worship), for the hour of His judgment has arrived. Fall down before Him; pay Him homage and adoration and worship Him Who created heaven and earth, the sea and the springs (fountains) of water.

Verse 6 is a fulfillment of Matthew 24:14 where Jesus declares that the gospel would be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations before the end. The times are so intense in the Great Tribulation that only angels can get messages of God through to the world because they are indestructible.

Flying in midair may be symbolic of radio air waves or computers but an angel is assigned to take this message, and I am sure is opposed by the dark side, just as Gabriel was slowed down by the principalities of Greece and Persia, as he took a message from the throne to Daniel.

This angel is calling men to reverentially fear God and worship Him. This is God's final call before the return of Christ in judgment.

Babylon Has Fallen

8 *Then another angel, a second, followed, declaring, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She who made all nations drink of the [maddening] wine of her passionate unchastity [idolatry].*

This is one of the most exciting verses to me of the book of Revelation. Just like Zion types the overcoming, Spirit baptized, sold-out remnant company of the Last Days, Babylon symbolizes the corrupt world system that opposes Biblical principles. We look at the world today, and if we are honest, we can see how little of God is in our political systems, business dealings, and personal relationships. Babylon has always been symbolic of Satan's headquarters. Semiramis was the queen of Babel, which later became Babylon. She was married to Nimrod and many scholars believe she was also Nimrod's mother. She and Nimrod concocted a whole system of idolatry, the occult, and false religion, opposed to the One true God. This false system of belief has been promoted by the world system in the form of Satan worship, cults, the Masons, New Age, extreme environmentalist views worshiping the earth as "Mother Earth," unethical

business practices, glorifying the human body-especially the female body-in idolatry, sexual and spiritual immorality in all forms, false religions, etc. The metaphor being expounded here is of a prostitute giving a man wine so that his defenses come down, and she seduces him.

The Doom of Those Who Deny The Lord

9 *Then another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a mighty voice, Whoever pays homage to the beast and his statue and permits the [beast's] stamp (mark, inscription) to be put on his forehead or on his hand,*
10 *He too shall [have to] drink of the wine of God's indignation and wrath, poured undiluted into the cup of His anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*
11 *And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no respite (no pause, no intermission, no rest, no peace) day or night—these who pay homage to the beast and to his image and whoever receives the stamp of his name upon him.*
12 *Here [comes in a call for] the steadfastness of the saints [the patience, the endurance of the people of God], those who [habitually] keep God's commandments and [their] faith in Jesus.*

There are two things going on in the Great Tribulation period. First, Satan, knowing his time is short, greatly ups, with the help of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, his activity (Revelation 12:12). But secondly the judgment of Christ will begin as He moves personally and directly in putting down the rebellion against Him.

There will be no middle ground or compromise during this period. You will be either serving the beast and taking his mark, or you will be faithful to Christ Jesus. If you do not take the mark of the beast, you will have to deal with starvation. If you don't faithful serve Christ, you will know the wrath of God. It will be your choice.

Verse 10 and 11, I believe speaks of hell. We can read in the verses that Christ and the holy angels can see what is going on in hell. I do not believe those who have gone to be with the Lord will see the torment of those in hell because of the heartbreak of seeing loved ones who never accepted Christ go through this eternal torment. Otherwise, heaven would not be such a happy place.

Verse 12 ends with a call for the saints to be steadfast as they patiently endure and to habitually keep the commandments and their faith in Christ.

Rest for the Faithful Ones

13 *Then I heard further [perceiving the distinct words of] a voice from heaven, saying, Write this: Blessed (happy, to be envied) are the dead from now on who die in the Lord! Yes, blessed (happy, to be envied indeed), says the Spirit, [in] that they may rest from their labors, for their works (deeds) do follow (attend, accompany) them!*

Barclay tells us that the idea of works in this verse is not *salvation by works*. He says that *works* in this verse equals *character*. This is the way Barclay sees it: "When you leave this earth, all that you can take with you is yourself. If you come to the end of this life still one with Christ, you will take with you a character tried and tested like gold, which has something of His reflection in it…"

The Harvest of Judgment

14 *Again I looked, and behold, [I saw] a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud One resembling a Son of Man, with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp scythe (sickle) in His hand.*
15 *And another angel came out of the temple sanctuary, calling with a mighty voice to Him Who was sitting upon the cloud, Put in Your scythe and reap, for the hour has arrived to gather the harvest, for the earth's crop is fully ripened.*
16 *So He Who was sitting upon the cloud swung His scythe (sickle) on the earth, and the earth's crop was harvested.*
17 *Then another angel came out of the temple [sanctuary] in heaven, and he also carried a sharp scythe (sickle).*
18 *And another angel came forth from the altar, [the angel] who has authority and power over fire, and he called with a loud cry to him who had the sharp scythe (sickle), Put forth your scythe and reap the fruitage of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are entirely ripe.*
19 *So the angel swung his scythe on the earth and stripped the grapes and gathered the vintage from the vines of the earth and cast it into the huge winepress of God's indignation and wrath.*
20 *And [the grapes in] the winepress were trodden outside the city, and blood poured from the winepress, [reaching] as high as horses' bridles, for a distance of 1,600 stadia (about 200 miles).*

This final vision in Chapter 14 is of judgment. The Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14 refers to Jesus with this title) will come in shekinah glory clouds (Matthew 24:30) as King. He will have a sharp sickle, which is a

symbol of judgment.

We know that there will be a Great Harvest at the end of the age. Obviously, we are not there yet so what should our function be as we wait for that harvest? We should be sowers of the Word, speaking the Word into people's lives, advising and counseling people with the Word, teaching and preaching the Word, living the Word before men.

The blood from this harvest of judgment will reach about four feet and be between 185-200 miles and will be outside of Jerusalem. This is almost the entire length of Palestine from north to south and would indicate that the judgment would flow over the entire land and spill over, symbolizing that this judgment will be complete.

I Want to See Israel Marching

I want to see Israel marching,
I want to hear the kingdom call!
I want to see Zion's mountain,
I want to see great Babylon fall!
I want to see Jesus reigning,
Upon King David's royal throne,
O, won't that be a glorious sight to see
When Israel comes marching home!