

The Good Guys and Bad Guys of the Tribulation Revelation 12:13-14:20

When I was growing up - I loved watching Western Movies -

A) In Westerns you could always tell the good guys from the bad guys

B) Bad guys wore black hats and rode - black horses - the Good guys wore white or light colored hats

1) And rode - white or light colored horses.

C) It was the classic Stereo type of so many western Movies - probably until Clint Eastwood came along

D) He was a good guy who wore a black hat in the good the bad and the Ugly.

Well tonight we are going to look at the Good guys and the bad guys of the tribulation.

A) Distinctly different descriptions -

B) Start with the Bad guys in Chapter 12-13

C) We already were introduced to the first one - the worst one - The Dragon - Satan himself

D) We left off in Revelation 12- The War in Heaven - Satan gets thrown out of heaven - No more Access

1) We saw his reaction in V. 12 The devil has come down to earth having great wrath because he knows his time is short

E) We pick it up in V.13 - Where we see things are going to get intense for those on planet earth.

¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*.

V.13 Puts us at the midway point of the tribulation

A) Satan sets his sites on the nation of Israel

B) Satan has a 3 fold plan during the Tribulation

1st Destroy the nation of Israel - the people of God
2nd Devour the Saints - those who come to Christ during the tribulation

3rd Determine - who is going to rule the World - Jesus Christ or his guy the Antichrist

C) So he sets his aim at the people of Israel here in Chapter 13 - woman who gave birth to the Child -
1) Saw last week that was a reference to Israel - Jesus came from the Jewish nation - Tribe of Judah house of David

D) So Satan wants to Destroy the Jews - launches incredible wave of anti-Semitism that will be greater than what the World has ever seen.

¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

So when the Devil turns his attention toward Israel - the Lord is going to protect them in a special way.

A) The wings of an eagle are a picture of God's protection for His people as He leads them to this place of safety where they are protected for 3 1/2 years

B) Many Scholars believe they will go to the City of Petra – picture of Petra

C) They are protected from Satan, and whatever he sends their way

D) It says, “flood” – and that might be a literal flood, or this could be used to picture a flood of troops
➤ But either way this group of Jewish people are protected

So when Satan cannot overcome the Jews

A) So he turns his attention toward followers of Jesus - those who get saved during the tribulation time ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

B) Now All believers in Jesus are offspring of Israel - God told Abraham when he didn't have any kids -
1) Make him a great nation

C) From his offspring all the nations of the world would be blessed - prophecy of the Messiah -

D) We have all been blessed - saved from Abraham's offspring Jesus

E) That would be true of those who will come to Christ during the tribulation - that is the group mentioned here

Now remember chapters 10-14 are parenthetical chapters -

A) Pause in the narrative to give us details - what is going to happen during this time.

B) Chapter 12 - Satan's plight and purpose

C) Chapter 13 tells us how he plans to carry out his plan

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. Here in Revelation chapter 13 we are introduced to

BAD GUY #2 - The Antichrist

A) A man who will make Hitler and Genghis Khan and Ivan the Terrible look tame in comparison

B) We have actually seen him already - back in Chapter 6 V.1 - The beginning of the tribulation he comes on the scene -

1) Masquerading as a good guy. -

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He is trying to look like Jesus - white horse - good guy - but the next phrase reveals his true intentions

He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

C) Now this man is only called "the Antichrist" in the book of I John, but he is given 9 different names in the Bible

The Antichrist is called in the Bible...

#1 - "the little horn" - Daniel 7:8

#2 - "the coming prince" - Daniel 9:26

#3 - "the willful king" - Daniel 11:36

#4 - "the worthless shepherd" - Zechariah 11:17

#5 - "the man of lawlessness" - 2 Thessalonians 2:3

#6 - "the son of destruction" - 2 Thessalonians 2:3

#7 - "the Antichrist" - 1 John 2:18, 22

#8 - "the rider on the white horse" - Revelation 6:2

#9 - "the Beast" - Revelation 13:1-10

D) Consider what we learn about him in chapter 13

#1 - his Background - Revelation 13:1-2

A) This beast rises out of the sea

B) Now understand in Biblical typology the sea is always used as a picture of the gentile nations -

1) "over and over again in the OT prophecies you had two places people came out of

"The Land" = which was the nation of Israel

"The Sea" = which is a picture of the gentile nations

C) This beast rises out of the sea = the gentile nations

And also understand that when John speaks of the Beast, John is speaking about the kingdom he rules and the ruler as one

A) Much like if I talked about Nazi Germany, you think of Hitler as one in the same with the nation, it is hard to separate him from his regime

B) So When John talks about the Beast - he is speaking not only of an individual but the empire he represents

C) That is made clear by the description given here of the beast.

Notice John describes him as having “7 heads and ten horns

A) Recall that in Chapter 12 - that is how the Dragon was described as well

B) It is symbolic of the same thing - the seven world powers that have been led by Satan since the creation of Israel

➤ Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and now this final world empire

C) “10 horns” – is a picture that this last empire will be divided into 10 parts

➤ all ruled by the Antichrist

This picture is seen elsewhere in the Bible

A) King Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel was given a dream of world kingdoms that would come after him – picture of the Statue from Daniel 2

B) He saw the first one – a head of gold, Daniel told him it represented him and Babylon

1) The next was the arms and chest of silver – Daniel told him represented the coming Medo-Persian

C) The next was the belly and thighs of bronze, representing Greece

1) The next was legs of Iron representing Rome

D) But the last kingdom – the kingdom Daniel saw would be on earth when Jesus sets up His kingdom would be the feet with ten toes

And then this vision appears again in Daniel 7 – Daniel is given a vision of 4 different beasts- The Difference

A) The golden statue was man’s view of world history

B) The beasts are God’s view, animals out of control

C) The first one being a lion with eagle’s wings – Lion’s King of the Jungle again a picture of Babylon

1) Interesting to note that a Winged lion known as a Griffin is the national symbol of Babylon

Next he sees a bear raised up on one side and that was again the Medo-Persian Empire

A) The next a leopard – speaking of Greece and the swift attack method of Alexander the Great

B) And then the final beast was a horrible animal that Daniel could not describe

1) this beast that goes away and come back with again 10 horns

C) This final Kingdom will be a composite of the other three on steroids

1) powerful like Babylon, cunning like the Persians, Swift and devastating in battle like Alexander the Great’s Greece and world dominating like Rome

D) For this leader, this Antichrist, receives his power, his throne, and his authority from Satan himself

The Antichrist – Revelation Chapter 13:1-20

#1 – his Background – Revelation 13:1-2

#2 – his bogus Resurrection & Religion – Rev. 13:3-4

A) After the Antichrist comes on the scene with the authority of Satan and in the likeness of so many that have gone before him

B) Something happens that sets Antichrist apart

➤ He will do many things that appear great

C) I think he will have a lot of answers to the chaos in the world that will ensue after the rapture - billion plus people missing

D) He will bring peace to the middle East - Arabs and the Jews - help Israel rebuild their temple on the temple mount

But all those things are not what sways the world after him

A) The world is swayed when this man receives a head wound and is healed

B) Verse 14 tells us he receives a wound from a sword

1) and from verse 3 it appears like he is dead

C) From passages from the prophet Zechariah, it maybe that his right eye, and his right arm are rendered useless because of this, Zechariah says “Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.” – Zechariah 11:17

Whatever happens to him, he is wounded in the head and appears to be dead, but the head wound is then healed and so is he

A) Some scholars believe he actually dies, at that point is indwelt by Satan, then resurrected

B) But the wording in verse 3, when it says, “as if” makes it very possible that the whole thing is a big Satan scam

1) Whether real or not, the world buys it and is amazed

C) This Counterfeit Resurrection - this is our guy!!!!

D) The world will see this bogus resurrection, V.8 and they will fall at his feet, in worship as they buy into his bogus religion

E) And their worship even extends beyond the beast to power behind the beast

1) People begin to worship the Dragon - Satan

Which leads me to our third point..verses 5-6

#3 – his blasphemy – Revelation 13:5-6

A) It is funny, every time in scripture you see this guy he is described as opening up his big mouth

B) That might be a better title for him, “Mr. Big Mouth”- Boastful talker

C) This beast speaks against God and everything God stands for (His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven).

God’s Name: His heart and Character -

A) He then speaks against God’s dwelling place, His tabernacle in heaven, that there is no heaven and no need to worship God

B) And those who Dwell there: this is interesting one to me, this Antichrist will speak again us who are in heaven- that is us - the raptured church

C) Remember the rapture will happen before these events

D) Makes me wonder if this is a reference to Theories he will have about the rapture - the “real reason” these people vanished.

E) Verse 5 says it will only last 3 ½ years Half of the Tribulation period

Notice the 4th thing we are told about the Antichrist in V.7-10 his battle

V.7 He comes against the saints of God!

A) 3 groups in the Bible are known as “saints”

B) #1 - the church – 49 times in the New Testament the church is referred to as “saints”

C) #2 - Israel – 32 times in the Old Testament, God people Israel are called “saints”

D) #3 - Those who are saved during the Tribulation – 11 times the word ‘saints’ is used of the saved in the Tribulation period

I believe it is the latter two groups of “saints” that antichrist will make war against and prevail for a time.

A) Jewish people who don’t make it to Petra and people who come to faith in Jesus during the tribulation time - Tribulation Saints

B) Notice what it says of this group -v.9-10⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

C) These are those who are patient to withstand the persecution that comes from the beast - they will be killed

D) But they also will be rewarded in Heaven

E) Leads us to consider the 3rd Bad guy of the tribulation the false prophet in V.11-18

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Note 3 things about the false prophet 13:11-18 #1 – his Make-up – Revelation 13:11

A) Now I don't mean that he wears blush or something, but his make-up, his background, where he is coming from

B) John sees this second beast coming out of the earth

➤ some scholars see this to mean, that the false prophet will have some type of Jewish background

C) if you remember, I said that in the Old Testament, if the prophets said a person came from the sea, it meant they were gentile -

1) and if they came from the land, it meant they were Jewish

We see with the first beast, him coming out of the sea, and very correctly this should be interpreted that he is a gentile

A) But then scholars say that verse 11 “out of the earth” means the false prophet is Jewish – and they could be right

B) But the OT prophets used the word - land not earth that is referred to here in Revelation 13 - so it could mean something different

C) Notice also that this False prophet has horns but no crows

1) probably meaning that his power will not be political in nature but that this man is a religious leader

D) His focus seems to be religious in Nature

➤ not coming with political power, but with religious prominence

- Yet he is as dangerous as all the other enemies of God
- For we see his ministry, in verse 12

The False Prophet – Revelation Chapter 13:11-18 #2 – his Ministry – Revelation 13:12

A) His ministry is to get the people of the world to worship the beast

B) Antichrist will set up a one world - economic system - and a one world religious system

C) This false prophet is his right hand man to help him pull this off - and we see his method of how he seeks to do this in V.13-18

The False Prophet's Method #1 – Great signs – verses 13-14a

A) The first way he leads the world after the beast is great signs -

B) Just like the two witnesses were able to call down fire from heaven, so does this prophet have the ability to do this

C) Satan can produce miracles which is why we cannot base our belief in something solely on miracles -

D)The world will see those signs and be deceived

The False Prophet's Method

#1 – Great signs

#2 – He makes an image of the beast – vv. 14b-15

A)After performing great signs, this false prophet leads the world to worship the beast by setting up an image of him.

B)This makes me wonder if this will be a literal statue like king Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel

C)Or will this be more of a brand or a logo - we are so into brands and logos these days - people love to display them on their cars

1)Shirts - equipment

Whatever it is this is no normal idol or image

A)V.15 the false prophet is given power to give the image breath

B)now the word “breath” there is not the normal word used for life in the New Testament

C)Some modern Bible teachers believe what we seeing here is either a clone, some sort of AI, or Artificial Intelligence,

Or maybe it will be something like this

A)The Giant Company Attractions Limited an Irish-headquartered organization has developed and is rolling out The Giant, a cutting-edge visitor attraction for the 21st century.

B)The Giant will feature the world's tallest moving statue standing high (54 feet/5 stories high).

C)The Giant instantly transforms into an infinite array of spectacular images.

Using patented LED, AI and bespoke scanning technologies,

D)The Giant comes to life displaying any person - men, women, and children - from celebrities and historical figures to visitors to the attraction.

E)The Giant is being developed worldwide with the first attraction planned to open at American Dream in early 2025.

1)Tour 21 cities in the world

Whatever it is this false prophet's job is to make the world worship the beast.

A)And he does this by great signs and wonders, he does this by making an image that appears to be alive and wonderful, and finally...

B)The False Prophet's Method

#1 – Great signs

#2 – He makes an image of the Beast

#3 – He makes the world take the mark

The false prophet will require all to take this mark if they want to function in normal society

A)It is so amazing that this prophecy, which not so long ago seemed improbable, looks now to be right around the corner

B)We see the world going to a cashless society

1)Banks give you free checking if you set up direct deposit –

C)Every credit card company, and phone company, and every other bill you might have, always wants you to set up automatic bill pay

There was an article in Newsweek not long ago about the sky angel. A system to protect children.

A)A microchip the size of a pin head is injected under the skin, and 10,000 volumes of information can be stored about you.

B)And they can find you anywhere- age of trafficking - who wouldn't be tempted to put than in your child

C)So the False prophet is going to help propagate this idea - cashless society take this mark =This mark will be given in the hand or the forehead

Interesting today: Banks are in favor of a cashless society - law enforcement is in favor of a cashless society

A)Dent in Drug dealing - Sex trafficking - Fraud cases

B)Fraud alerts and scam alerts everyday -

C)There has been so much written about verse 18 - In Hebrew and Greek as well as other languages each letter is given a numerical value

And what verse 18 is for, is those people who are alive at that time to be able to have wisdom about this man and his false prophet and stay away

A)His name will calculate to 666

B)Now if you work hard enough you can get anyone's name to equal 666

1)Hitler, Stalin – all came out to 666 - Reagan - Obama - Trump

C)Whatever the origin of the number – without it man will be in a difficult place

1)you can't buy or sell without it

D)and if you don't take it, they will find you and take your life

What did we learn from the Covid Pandemic our world will do anything if they are afraid

A)And so the masses will take this mark, and it really will be the beginning of the end of for them

B)This unholy trinity of Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet will really lead the world into utter destruction

➤ I am so glad we have the real trinity to serve and obey

- God the Father – loving us the way He does
- God the Son – taking our place on the cross
- God the Holy Spirit – filling us up and giving us the ability to be the men and women God has called us to be –

C)Let's serve them, let's follow them- Amen

D)So those are the bad guys of the tribulation - lets end tonight by looking at the Good Guys! Ch. 14

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

A)We met the first group on Sunday in our study the 144,000 - a special group of Jewish people who embrace Jesus after the rapture - believers in Jesus -

B)First met this group in Chapter 7 - 144,000 Jews 12K each tribe - Special work during the tribulation - Evangelism

C)Sunday we made note of 5 special things about them -

#1 Their Seal - His Father's name written on their foreheads

#2 Their Song - They have a special song that they sing

#3 Their Sanctity - . ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.

#4 Their steps - they Follow Jesus where ever he goes -

➤ **Witnesses for Jesus during the Tribulation**

#5 Their standing: faultless (more on them Sundays message)

2nd The Messengers: V.6-11

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

8 And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. 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 rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Next we see these messengers, are angels

A)The first messenger says “Fear God and give Him glory!”

B)The world loves to say we are supreme – look out for number one

1)But the angel says – actually God is number one

C)You are to give Him glory with your life- why you exist.

Notice also this first angel, this first messenger preaches the gospel

A)Some Bible teachers will say that Jesus cannot come back until the gospel is preached to every person on earth

B)And the reason they believe this is because of Matthew 24 when Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” – Matthew 24:14

C)This Angel will be spreading the gospel
The First messenger says “Fear God and give Him glory!”
The Second Messenger says “Babylon has fallen!”

This second angel prophesies about the destruction of Babylon

A)We will see in a couple of weeks in ch.17 that Babylon represent both the religious and commercial system of the Antichrist

B)Babylon, the world system, promises joy, peace and happiness

➤ But all it really produces is wrath and destruction

C)It is going to come down. -

The First messenger says “Fear God and give Him glory!”

The Second Messenger says “Babylon has fallen!”

The Third Messenger says “Don’t worship the Beast!”

A)In contrast to what the first angel is saying, that we should fear God and give Him glory,

B)this third angel preaching the message warning the world against worshipping and following the Beast or the antichrist

○ The Lord is pleading with the people of planet earth

C)“this is the way the world is going, but don’t do it, don’t get into it, don’t be marked by it.”

➤ And for those who do not heed the warning the future is bleak

D)And notice that Their torment is not a momentary one, for it is described in verse 11 as continuing forever,

E)the strongest expression of eternity of which the Greek language is capable of communicating

1)Forever and ever.

Now some people will argue come on Pastor Rob do you really think God is going to punish people forever. - Seems so cruel!!

A)Well this is how I respond to that - the book of Revelation gives this warning Revelation 22 - If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life.

B)Now do any of you want that to happen to me? - I hope not - So here is what I am going to do - take the bible literally

1)I will let the Bible speak for itself

C)If when we get to heaven it means something different - I will let the Lord make that clear to us.

The Good Guys of the Tribulation – Rev. 14

#1 The 144,000 Jewish evangelist V.1-5

#2 The Messengers V.6-11

#3 The Saints V.12-13

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Once again John is talking about those Tribulation saints - who in the midst of the Tribulation - reject the Antichrist

A) Say no to Babylon and its system -

B) They follow Jesus - but most of them will be martyred for their faith and resistance - but the Lord says 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'

C) They find rest from their labors - - their standing for Jesus in such a difficult time

D) Love the end of V.13 and their works follow them - the idea is they leave a legacy.

As a Pastor I have done 100's of memorial services in my 38 years of ministry

A) And in some of them I listen to people share about the person who died and I am amazed.

B) I wish I would have known that person better - their works follow them - incredible legacy in the lives of the people they touched

C) I don't know if there will be memorial services taking place during the tribulation - (the church in Hiding)

D) But these people are going to make a huge impact on the lives of many.

The Good Guys of the Tribulation – Rev. 14
#1 – The 144,000 – Revelation Ch. 14:1-5
#2 – The Messengers – Revelation Ch. 14:6-11
#3 – The Saints – Revelation Ch. 14:12-13
#4 - Jesus Himself – Revelation Ch. 14:14-20

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the

earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. -180 miles

Now this is an early description of the battle of Armageddon, we are going to look at this in some detail this Sunday in chapter 16

A) We often think of Jesus as meek and mild-carrying the children in his arms

B) But here we see the other side of Jesus, that is no different in character than God the Father because they are one in the same,

Here we see Jesus coming for judgment

Notice He's not carrying an olive branch. He doesn't have a cross to go to Calvary. He comes with a sickle, the implement of reaping the harvest of the earth.

A) The first time Jesus came to earth, He came as a servant. The second time Jesus comes it will be as sovereign King.

B) The first time Jesus came to planet earth, He came as One obeying.

1) The second time He comes, He will be the One commanding.

C) The first time Jesus came, He came alone to live with a Jewish couple in an obscure town in Israel - Nazareth.

1) The second time He comes; He will come with all the angels of heaven and his bride and he will rule over all the earth.

The first time He came, He came in humility.

A)The second time He comes, He will come in glorious majesty, as we see here, on a cloud with a crown.

B)The first time He came to seek and to save the lost,

1)the second time He will come to judge and sentence the lost.

C)Or to put it in the image of what we're reading, the first time Jesus came, He came as the sower.

1)The second time He comes it will be as the reaper. - Sickle in hand

Now our friends in the pre-wrath camp - those who believe that the rapture happens here in ch.14 right before the bowl judgments start -

A)Because in their thinking the first 3 1/2 year of the tribulation are a time of where the world is experiencing the wrath of Satan / Antichrist

B)And a lot of natural disasters are happening - but I think they ignore the fact that everything we are reading is being

1)Orchestrated from heaven - God is allowing the Antichrist to come

C)God is sending out angels to cause disasters

But our Pre-wrath friends argue that the Actual Wrath of God - that doesn't start until Chapter 15

A)They like to key in on Chapter 16:1 - Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

B)This is first time in the tribulation it is referred to as the wrath of God

C)But they seem to ignore Chapter 15:1 - that says Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

D)Complete indicates that what we have been witnessing from Chapter 6 - 14 has also been the wrath of God

1)What we are going to read in chapter 15-16 next week is just the completion of it

The reason that they like to place the rapture here in Chapter 14 is because of the language noted here.

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown,

A)So this clearly Jesus - -coming on a Cloud -

B)We know from 1 Thessalonians 4:17 it mentions that when the rapture happens we are caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds

C)So those in the pre-wrath camp see two harvest happening here the first harvest is the wheat harvest done by Jesus

Those in the pre-wrath camp believe this is the rapture.

A)The 2nd Harvest is the harvest of grapes done by an Angel - this is a Harvest of Judgment against the wicked.

B)I can see in some ways - why this would make sense to them -

C)The Problem I have with the idea of that this is the rapture is the language.

1)I always like to pay attention to the language in the text

The Language here in the text for the word ripe used in V. 15 and v.18 I think is very telling

A)The Greek word translated "ripe" in verse 15 is "xērainō" (x-say-rhion) and it means "dried" or "withered,"

B)That doesn't sound like a picture of the Bride of Christ at the rapture of the church.

C)But I think it is a good description of the state of the world -at this stage of the Tribulation

Then there is a different word used in verse 18

A)The word for "ripe" in verse 18 is "akmazō" (ack-maud-zo) and this term means "to be at the prime."

B)The wickedness of the world had reached a full crescendo

➤ Here the picture is the grapes are fully grown in their prime, almost bursting with juice.

C)The wrath of God on this world is overdue, the sin of the world has it bursting forth with worthiness of judgment

And judgement will certainly come

A)This is a preview of that great battle that will begin in the Valley of Megiddo - Antichrist forces come against Israel and Jesus

B)Wiped out - Ch.16 Sunday

C)V.20 speaks of blood flowing over an area of 180 miles in some places as thick and tall as a horse's bridle

1)Interesting description because if you were to measure the Valley of Megiddo in Sq. miles it is almost exactly 185 square miles

As we close tonight - another sobering passage.

A)I would mention that although the Antichrist is not in power as of yet - the Spirit or mindset of Antichrist is alive and well in our world

B)There is a growing cry from many political leaders in the world today for Global Unity -

C))Making the idea of one world GOVT that seemed impossible even a decade ago more plausible

C)There is a growing sentiment of Anti-semitism in our world today - rapidly getting more and more intense.

D)The Anti-God - anti-Jesus and anti-christian sentiments are getting more extreme and more aggressive with each passing year.

E)Violence and Sexual immorality of all sorts is growing - World wide

But let me remind you of this: The Bible says where Sin abounds - grace abounds all the more

A)We are still living in a age of Grace - where God is seeking to Give this world what we don't deserve

B)We deserve His wrath - but he is patient desire that none perish - he continues to bestow on us grace -

C)Continues to pour out his Spirit - We continue to pray for Revival