

Revelation 14 Lift up your Heads, your Redemption is Near

BICF ZGC join with WORLDwide CHURCH to Celebrate PALM SUNDAY
 PALM Sunday – Preview of HEAVEN during the Savior’s Earthly Struggles
 King Jesus // like King DAVID > FLEEING those who want to KILL Him
 Religious Leaders & Government Officials – Like ATTACKING Beasts

JERUSALEM – Center of Opposition – City where Jesus WILL DIE

But 1st Palm Sunday TIME Stands Still, Evil Plans of Man against God FROZEN

JESUS– Revealed and Acclaimed in Glory, King of Kings and Lord of Lords

JOYFUL Jerusalem ACKNOWLEDGES its RIGHTFUL LORD

Gritty Part of Rev: Counterfeit, Unholy Trinity ALLIED agnst Church of Jesus
 2000 yrs been CASUALTIES & CAPTIVES --- & Great Gospel CONQUEST

ULTIMATE TERRORISTS > Dragon, Anti-Christ, and False Prophet

DEMONIC Tools of godless STATE and secular CHURCH > Grim & Bloody

50 years EARLIER > Lord Jesus taught Disciples about LAST DAYS...

“There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations...Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world ...*When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*”
 Luke 21.23-28

John HEARD that Message from JESUS > Now Echoes Master’s Exhortation

LOOK UP! Does not SUGAR-COAT SUFFERING > See beyond it to GLORY
 Beyond Storm of Unholy Trinity, Bright Morning of Eternity with Lamb in Zion

Rev 14, like Palm Sunday: SCENE SHIFT > Battlefield to THRONE ROOM

Lift up your HEADS, Behold the KING of Glory – the Lord Strong and Mighty

Ch 14: 3 views – Sentence of God - Saints in Glory – Servants of the Gospel

1. Sentence of God vs. 14-20

Palm Sunday – ABOUT 2000 yrs ago > Entered Jerusalem to SAVE WORLD

FINAL Day – Same Jesus will COME AGAIN to JUDGE the WORLD

Whole BIBLE warns about this HARVEST Day, RECONING & REWARDING

‘Let the nations be roused...I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!’ Joel 3.12,13

ENEMIES of Israel will be JUDGED, PROMISE LAND > Restored & Cleansed

a. Title ‘Son of Man’ Self-Designation most often used by Christ, Only by Him

MESSIAH: Captain Army of God’s Vengeance > Eternal Kingdom Established

v. 14 a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.

Palm Sunday DRESS REHEARSAL, Now Sovereign God JUDGE on Throne

ORIGIN Daniel 7 = DEITY of KING JESUS > Son of Man is Son of GOD

No LONGER wearing a Crown of THORNS > NOW a Crown of GOLD

AUTHENTIC CROWN, NOT Counterfeit > He is the WORTHY One

Glorified Redeemer > Golden Crown on Head > Royal Supremacy

b. Transport > CLOUDS > Only GOD Rides on the CLOUDS

Movie Stars RIDE STRETCH OUTS > God’s Limo Stretches across SKIES

“See, *the LORD rides on a swift cloud...*” Isaiah 19.1

Jesus: "In the future you will see the *Son of Man* sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and *coming on the clouds of heaven.*" Matthew 26.64

c. Task Savior has come to SENTENCE those who Reject SALVATION

Jesus our High Priest > Stretched Out Arms on Cross > “It is FINISHED!”

Work of SALVATION Accomplished > Redemption Complete > SAT DOWN

“when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”
Hebrews 10.12

“The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son” John 5.22

Sickle > Time for reaping Harvest of Mankind has Arrived

Son, with Sickle > Angels are his Agents > FINAL DAY has Come

v. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

d. Terrible – NOT Politically Correct Palm Sunday Sermon for Moderns!

“John is not squeamish about the Son entering into the execution of judgment.”
Robert H. Mounce

Vivid PICTURE of FINAL Day – Grain =Righteous / Grapes = God’s Enemies

v 17 Another *angel came out of the temple in heaven*, and he too had a sharp sickle

Judgment on Sin > Necessary part of God’s Righteousness and Holiness

1) Full > EVIL has Become FULLY EVIL > Beyond POINT of NO RETURN

v. 18 "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because *its grapes are ripe*."

Time for Harvest, Grain turned Golden > Grapes fully Ripe > Judgment is Now!

God Judged Nations who were FULL of Sin, Prophecy of Judgment to Abraham:

“...for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure” Genesis 15.16

2) Furious > Harvest of Ungodly, Grapes for Winepress of Divine Judgment

vs. 19,20 “The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia”

Reaping of Vintage Harvest > Casting of Grapes into Winepress to be Trodden

300 Km = North to South length of Palestine > ENEMIES EXTINGUISHED

Flowing from Great Winepress of Wrath of God > Deep Tide of Blood

Righteous Judgment of God: Defy his Authority and Spurn his Gospel

This is picture language, but let's not imagine that the reality will be any less serious than the picture. Sinclair Ferguson

2. Saints in Glory

Ch 12,13 - SAVAGE Beasts EARTH – ch 14 - SOMBER Judgment in HEAVEN

Xtians WONDER? What about ME? – Are YOU Wondering? I AM!

a. Peace

v. 1 “Then I looked” v. 6 “Then I saw” v. 13 “Then I heard” v. 14 “I looked”

NOT WHEN EVENTS OCCURRED but Rather WHEN SEEN by JOHN

ORDER of REVELATION EVENT > *and then God showed me, and then...*

Stephen SAW JESUS IN GLORY > Even as STONES Crushed his LIFE Away

SCENE CHANGE > While Counterfeit Unholy Trinity Rages on EARTH

Same Time in HEAVEN > True & Living God REIGNS in TRIUNE FULNESS

v. 1 “Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion”

John sees the Lamb > True & Authentic Lamb > Distinct from False Lamb

Standing > Alive and Strong > Standing on Mount Zion > Mtn of Divine Grace

BEAST stood on SAND > LORD standing on HOLY MOUNTAIN

“the Jerusalem that is above is free”

Galatians 4.26

“everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for *on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance*”

Joel 2.32

"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psalms 2.6

“You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven” Hebrews 12.22-23

Dragon Lost BATTLE and WILL LOOSE the WAR

b. Protection

v. 1 “with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads”

Revelation 7: 144,000 COMPLETENESS: WHOLE CHURCH of Jesus Christ

Confronted by ENEMIES on Earth > Comforted by SAVIOR in Heaven

“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”
Ephesians 2.6

Repetition of Number > None Lost > All those SEALED will be SAVED

“The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and *his name will be on their foreheads.*”
Revelation 22.3,4

“Although the dragon has tried his utmost to make them unfaithful to their Lord, and although he has employed two beasts to assist him, not a single one of the 144,000 is missing.”
William Hendriksen

BEASTS Mark > Not a ‘Seal’ > Seal is sign of PROTECTION and SECURITY

“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.”
Ephesians 1.13,14

Beasts Mark offers NO PROTECTION from the COMING WRATH of God

Empty Hope those w/ Mark of Beast, Shattered like Pottery when Son Appears

The destiny of every person is determined by the mark that person bears. When judgment comes there will be no room for ambiguity; people will have their “mark” declared by their master.
Robert H. Mounce

c. Praise

vs. 2,3 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Redeemed Kingdom of Priests: Sing New Song before Throne of God

PRAISE Characteristic MARK of Christian NOW > Seen by Eye of FAITH
NOT Color, Culture > X in You – GLOBAL Family celebrate PALM Sunday

‘HEAVEN’ Not a GEOGRAPHICAL Reference > Another Dimension
Loud and Melodic > Roar of Ocean > Sound of Thunder > Ensemble of Harps

VOICE > Overpowering Strength and Heartbreaking Sweetness
Greek Word here for NEW > Something made New from Former State
New Song sung ONLY by Redeemed > Have Experienced Deliverance
Those who have been FORGIVEN MUCH will LOVE MUCH

CHRISTIANS SING!! > One of GREAT EVIDENCES of Truth of GOSPEL

Wherever and Whenever People Redeemed > Praise: CONFIDENCE in X
Songs > Their Languages > Their Musical Styles > Quite Diverse and Unique
4 yrs Anglican churches Lugbara, AIRPLANE Song “*Nearrrrrer My God to Thee*”
“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.”
Psalm 40.2,3

INTENSITY of Singing > DENSE, sense of SHEER GLORY of God

IF you are not FILLED with Joy & Rapture of Jesus NOW – Going to Heaven?

Do you think DEATH will make you BETTER SINGER? No Biblical PROOF

You’ll be Terribly BORED in Heaven if you Cannot PRAISE God Here & Now

d. Purity

v. 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure.

By 2nd century, Marcion had established a church solely for celibates.

Origen > Great Theologian & Apologist > Castrated himself to insure Chastity

21st C. > CELIBACY Still Requirement for Leadership in Some Denomin.

ALL of the TOTALLY MISSED the Point of TRUE MEANING!

At first blush it seems to be a radically chauvinistic statement, eliminating from redemption half of the church and demeaning half of the human race...the vision is portraying the faithful as those who have not committed adultery with the harlot, Fallen Babylon, but have kept themselves “virgins” for their bridegroom, the Lamb.
M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

God’s 1st Command: *Be Fruitful and Multiply* > Several Apostles were Married

LIKE much of Revelation > VIRGINITY = SYMBOL – HOLY People of God:

“O Virgin Daughter of Zion” Lamentations 2.13

UNFAITHFULNESS > Symbolized as Improper Sexual Relationships

"Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD." Hosea 5.4

Followers of LAMB > Characterized by LOYALTY > Pictured by Virginitly

“I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him...sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11.2,3

Soldier URIAH More Righteous than King David who stole U’s wife Bathsheba

v. 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

“The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths.” Zephaniah 3.13

REJECT the LIE > Lies of the Dragon, Anti-Christ, and False Prophet

e. Purpose v. 4 They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1.16-18

DISCIPLE = 'follower' > CORE IDENTITY > Turn from Sin & Self to Christ

New Master > New Destiny > New Purpose > Part of God's Eternal Plan

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

"following the Lamb wherever he goes" calls for an abandonment of our lives to God in all things. Our agenda, our plans, our purposes, our wants, our needs, our desires, our goals, all become expendable for God's purposes M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

f. Purchased

v. 4 purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Redeemed from All Humanity, not just Israel > God's Restored Kingdom

"with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" Revelation 5.9

Firstfruits > All the Redeemed "He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." James 1.18

Earth > Rebellious Realm of Evil Mankind > Saints "purchased" from There
 "Redeemed *from the EARTH*" > Word of Hope > Possible to BE CHANGED

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

DIRTY Laundry LIST of Sin > We are ALL in there SOMEWHERE!

SAVIOR who JUSTIFIES / SPIRIT who SANCTIFIES / GOD who SAVES!

3. Servants of the Gospel

Scene Change > From ZION saw LAMB & WHOLE NUMBER of Redeemed
Back To Troubled EARTH > Unholy Trinity: Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet

3 Heavenly Messengers > Kingdom of World belongs to God and the Lamb

Very LATE – NOT too Late Yet > Time of Gospel Grace & OPPORTUNITY

a. Call to the World > URGENT CALL!

v. 6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.

ONLY TIME the Word > GOSPEL used in Revelation = Good News

Supremely BAD News for All Unrepentant and Ungodly Earth Dwellers

Incomparably Good News for the Multitude of the Redeemed

Dragon thrown down to Earth / Beast trawling Sea / Beast up out of the Earth

Evil Influence is Terrible but Temporary > God's Rule fills the Skies

World thought Beast was SOVEREIGN, Power to Kill > SURPRISE & SHOCK

True SOVEREIGN Appears > Power OVER Dragon and his Beasts

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24.14

Message of God is Going Out > Everywhere Sun Travels its Course

Eternal GOSPEL – for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Time, Judges Everything

“...what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been *clearly seen*, being understood from what has been made, so that *men are without excuse*” Romans 1.19,20

NO One Can CLAIM IGNORANCE > Everyone has HEARD and SEEN

Made in GOD'S IMAGE > Living in GOD'S WORLD > Fed by GOD'S HAND

To feel the Wind at our Face > or Watch a Baby Grow >> GOD ALMIGHTY

“One half of the world is always in the light, while the other half is always in darkness. When one part of the world is going to bed, another part is just getting out of bed. While one part is hard at work, the other part is fast asleep. While some of God’s servants are carrying forward their mission, others are resting in preparation for the new day that will soon dawn. Somewhere, twenty-four hours a day, God’s message is being spoken; his Word applied; people are being saved. The sun never sets on the work of God and the witness of his people.”

Roger Greenway

b. Condemnation of the Wicked

2nd ANGEL > BAD NEWS for all who REJECT GOD’S GOOD NEWS

v. 8 “A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great...”

BABYLON > QUEEN of the BEAST > GLOBAL GODLESS CIVILIZATION

Renowned for Luxury and Moral Corruption > Great Enemy of People of God

Symbol of Godlessness in Every Age luring people from Worship of GOD

CANNOT ESCAPE Control > All we do > CANNOT Buy or Sell without Mark

v. 9 "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his *mark on the forehead or on the hand*”

FOREHEAD & HAND: Everything we THINK and TOUCH > Ideas & Actions

"Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD's vengeance; he will pay her what she deserves. Babylon was a gold cup in the LORD's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.” Jeremiah 51.6,7

John MIXES 2 Gripping Addictions > ALCOHOL and SEX > CRAZY for Both

BLINDING NATURE of SIN > Think we are FREE in reality we’re SLAVES

“made all the nations drink” 1st Drink is CHOICE > Daily Drinking CONTROL

Jesus: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.” John 8.34

Collapsing Man’s Babylon will Come Down > v. 8 "Fallen! Fallen...”

Brought Down > Direct DIVINE INTERVENTION > God’s Active Wrath

“Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!”
Isaiah 21.9

TERRIBLE WARNING > Offends our 21st Century Sensibilities -

vs 10,11 “anyone worships the beast...will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”

Much worse fate Mark of Beast than Simply not being ABLE to BUY or SELL
There are no Shopping Malls in Hell > Not even a JING WU SING

Revelation is SYMBOLISM >> Terrible Symbol >>> More Terrible REALITY
BEAUTIFUL BABYLON offered Tantalizing CUP OF WINE > Allured Many
Mask Removed > UGLY BEAST > Cup of Wine is REALLY a Cup of WRATH

“Wrath” = Final, Irrevocable Judgment of God

Drink NOT WATERED DOWN > Offered up by God FULL STRENGTH
Wrath STRAIGHT UP, Full Strength > Untempered by Mercy and Grace of God

JESUS spoke more of HELL than Heaven > did not want anyone to GO THERE
He HIMSELF Drank this VERY CUP > Cup of God's Wrath we Should Drink

c. Choice of the Wise > 2 Ways to Go > Radically Different Directions

Citizens of BABYLON > Get what they want > No God to BOTHER THEM

v. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

DEVIL is STRICT TASK-MASTER > No Benefits, No Overtime Pay, No Rest

One of KEY DIFFERENCES between Godly & Ungodly > RESTLESSNESS

Unbelievers: NO REST / Believers: REST

v. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."
Augustine, *Confessions*, 397

v. 9 ***If*** anyone worships the beast and his image...."

IS Option of NOT worshipping the Beast > become Citizen of New Jerusalem

v. 12 "the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus"

All citizens of New Jerusalem begin as citizens of Fallen Babylon

Following JESUS is ALSO DIFFICULT > DEMANDING DISCIPLESHIP

v. 12,13 "patient endurance... obey God's commandments...remain faithful to Jesus... their labor...their deeds"

Trials & Sufferings will come on Faithful who Refuse Siren Call of Babylon

Steadfast allegiance to Christ > Rejection of claims of Caesar

We sometimes ask God to STOP our ENEMIES, God's Desire is to SAVE Them

Followers of LAMB > Live forever in His BLESSING

"Those who die in the Lord from now on, see the face of the One who has died for them and ever lives to make intercession for them." William Hendriksen

Assurance for all Saints > Thru ALL AGES > Confirmed by Eternal Spirit

God will NOT FORGET those who ENDURED in Loyalty to the Faith

Deeds follow > No Separation btwn what a Person IS and what Person Does

Dead in Christ > at No Disadvantage > Blessed Now > Forever in His Glory

Works Follow > Good Done does not Die > Continues Fruitful to Glory of God

"I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far" Philippians 1.23

THREE ANGELS > Circle GLOBE > Divine Announcement

Church Goes Forth in Name of Risen, Glorious Jesus > to the Ends of the Earth

GOD Opens the Door of Opportunity for Salvation to All the World:

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!"
Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift
of the water of life. Revelation 22.17

ANOTHER CHANCE > for Some their LAST > How about You?

Revelation 14¹ Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. ⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." ⁸Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality." ⁹And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." ¹²Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" ¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.