

Revelation 14.6-13

Another Chance

Death has been NEAR our ICF Family this month > Lost Several loved Ones
 Charles Svendsen > my 1st Pastor > died at 84 in CA > Zealous Evangelist
 Often Challenged OTHER PASTORS > “What is the Gospel?”
 Once saw him STOP PASSING CAR > asked driver “Do you know Jesus?”
 Death Reminds Me of URGENCY & SERIOUSNESS of our Life’s Mission

THREE ANGELS > Stopping the World with DIVINE MESSAGES
 ANOTHER CHANCE > Perhaps a FINAL CHANCE

Scene Change > From ZION saw LAMB & WHOLE NUMBER of Redeemed
 To Troubled EARTH > Unholy Trinity: Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet
 3 Heavenly Messengers > Kingdom of World belongs to God and the Lamb

1. Call to the World 2. Condemnation of the Wicked 3. Choice for the Wise

1. Call to the World

a. Everywhere v. 6 “another angel flying in midair” > URGENT CALL!

Dragon thrown down to Earth / Beast trawling Sea / Beast up out of the Earth
 God Reigns overhead > Angel like Gingerbread Man: ‘you can’t touch me’
 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

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, *for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Isaiah 11.9,10

May NOT be THERE YET > but we’re GETTING THERE > Done Deal in Christ

b. Everyone > Fulfills the BLESSING to Abraham > All Nations Hear

v. 6 those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people

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

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

"...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

c. Everytime v. 6 the eternal gospel

Pastor Svendsen's son John > Now also Pastor > Good Friend of Mine
HS Attended School Dance > Band took Break > used Mic to preach Jesus
Chaperones PULLED PLUG > tell HS kids Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll > NOT Jesus
Football Coach: "Tomorrow (Sunday) is YOUR Day for that guys...in Church"

God's Time is ALL the TIME > 24/7 > 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week
Message of God is Going Out > Everywhere Sun Travels its Course

My name will be great among the nations, *from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place* incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 1.11

"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

1) Relevance v. 6 the eternal gospel

ONLY TIME the Word > GOSPEL used in Revelation = Good News
Absolutely BASIC GOSPEL > Like Adam heard in Eden before Sin's Effects
Like Jesus told the Lawyer "Do this and you will LIVE."

Supremely BAD News for All Unrepentant and Ungodly Earth Dwellers
Incomparably Good News for the Multitude of the Redeemed

ETERNAL > Immutable > Permanently Valid > All People throughout All Time
Good for Adam, Good for Last Man Born
Good for Life on Earth > Good to get us into Heaven

2) Responsibility v. 7 “the hour of his judgment has come”

Some DAY > BUZZER WILL SOUND > Clock STOP > GAME OVER
Lord of All Time will END TIME as we KNOW IT > JUDGEMENT DAY

Eternal Purpose of God > Judgment and Salvation in Coming Eternal Age

“The modern vogue for dispensing with hell has no counterpart in Revelation. John is quite sure that the consequences of sin follow sinners in the life to come. Here on earth they may rejoice over their misdeeds. There they will suffer for them.”

Leon Morris

d. Everything > Concise Summary of the Gospel

v. 7 "*Fear God* and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.
Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

He's Made All > Worship the Creator // He Sees All > Fear the Judge
Fear God > Reverence Him // Give Glory > Pay Respect & Honor that is his Due

SAME RESPONSE to Gospel found in Ch 15

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. *Who will not fear you, O Lord*, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. *All nations will come and worship before you*, for your righteous acts have been revealed."
Revelation 15.3,4

2. 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 the Great > phrase first uttered in Scripture by King Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar: "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" Daniel 4.30

Ancient Mesopotamian City > Political & Religious Capital of World Empire

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

'GREAT' in its own VAIN SELF IMPORTANCE > QUEEN of the BEAST

BABYLON > describes GLOBAL GODLESS CIVILIZATION > City of Man

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

Society SET FREE from its own WORST ENEMY > TRUE & Living GOD

a. Controls v. 8 Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink

John's Readers > 1st C. Believers in Asia (Turkey) >> Babylon = Rome

Mighty Empire forced itself onto World > Demanded Allegiance and Service

21st C. > USA? > IMF? > UN? > EU? > World Bank? > MTV? > CNN? > Nokia?

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

b. Consumed v. 8 "the maddening wine of her adulteries"

"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
Spiritual Adultery > turn from God to other gods > Lust after Babylon the Harlot

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

In the hand of the LORD is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs. Psalm 75.8

c. Collapsing Man's Babylon will Come Down > v. 8 "Fallen! Fallen..."

Brought Down > Direct DIVINE INTERVENTION > God's Active Wrath
Curse will fall on all those who CURSE the Seed of ABRAHAM

"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."

SOUND SHOCKING AND TERRIBLE TO YOU?? > Good it is INTENDED TO
Much worse fate to Mark of Beast than Simply not being ABLE to BUY or SELL

There are no Shopping Malls in Hell > Not even a BARAHOLKA

Christians had suffered before Rome's Leadership

Now their Tormentors will Suffer before Heaven's Hosts

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

NO WONDER Jesus SWEAT DROPS OF BLOOD > as He Anticipated that CUP
Christianity INFLUENCED Society to Value Man > Made in Image of God

Rightly Reject > Cruelty, Suffering, Revenge, and Terror > GOOD THING
 WEST Influenced more by SENTIMENTALITY than by SCRIPTURE
 GOD who Made Us has NO MORE RIGHT to be our JUDGE > We Judge Him

Revelation is SYMBOLISM >> Terrible Symbol >>> More Terrible REALITY

“After due allowance is made for the place of symbolism in the apocalyptic, what remains in these verses is still the terrifying reality of divine wrath poured out upon those who persist in following Antichrist. What the angel has proclaimed so vividly must not be undermined by well-intentioned euphemisms.”

Robert H. Mounce

3. Choice of the Wise

a. Direction > 2 Ways to Go > Radically Different Directions > CHOOSE

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

We sometimes ask God to STOP our ENEMIES > God’s Desire is to SAVE Them
 Warning > 1) to Pagan Population and 2) Christian community tempted to Fear

Cannot RECONCILE the Mystery of God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility
 God sees NO REASON for Such a Reconciliation > both Teachings are Friends!

GOD CHOSE a Particular People for Himself before Creation of World:

all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that
 was slain from the creation of the world Revelation 13.8

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

DOOR of OPPORTUNITY > Will Close at Second Coming of Jesus

“We quite rightly train ourselves during this age to have a hopeful attitude toward even the most terrible sinner. We pray and hope for repentance. We learn to love our enemies. This viewpoint is appropriate during this age, but it does not fit the arena of the Second Coming. Moreover, during the present age we love and admire many things about pagans because, even in their rebellion, they display many admirable reflections of God’s goodness. Our admiration may be proper now, but that will change when we see undiluted wickedness in all its ugliness and hideousness. The Second Coming brings about a separation between good and evil... Goodness will remain only with God and those who enjoy his blessing... We must let God be God. He knows what he is doing when he displays mercy and when he displays justice. We must therefore take the teaching in Revelation seriously... Only by repenting and turning to Christ can one escape from hell.”

Vern S. Poythress

b. Demands

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

v. 11 There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image

Paul to multitudes at Lystra: “Turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them” Acts 14.15

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

“The Caesar-cult supplied the saints with a test of loyalty which strengthened and matured those who were worthy of the name.”

Henry B. Swete

c. Destiny

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

v. 11 “the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever”

Image of Smoke going up Forever // Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

“The total grace they have rejected becomes the total condemnation they have chosen for themselves.”
Philip E. Hughes

“We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed; let us leave her and each go to his own land, for her judgment reaches to the skies, it rises as high as the clouds!...Lift up a banner against the walls of Babylon! Reinforce the guard, station the watchmen, prepare an ambush! The LORD will carry out his purpose, his decree against the people of Babylon.”
Jeremiah 51.9,12

“The continuous nature of guilt necessitates the endlessness of retribution.”
W.G.T. Shedd

There are only two options for human existence: either God is God in our life, or we are god in our life ...When we step away from holiness into unholiness, God doesn't change. God continues to be holy and we begin to experience the destructive consequences of our unholiness.
M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

Followers of LAMB > Live forever in His BLESSING
Our Testimony > may Result in Death: v. 13 “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on”

“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

Jesus to Church in Thyatira: “Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations”
Revelation 2.25,26

AFFIRMATION by the Spirit > DIVINE AMEN!

v. 13 "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

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

Death for the Christian does not mean the loss of blessing or separation from the grace and goodness of God; on the contrary, as the voice from heaven proclaims here, the state of the dead who die in the Lord is one of blessedness.

Philip E. Hughes

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

Knowing ALL THIS > Understand and AGREE WITH Apostle Paul -
“I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far” Philippians 1.23

Pastor Svendsen STOPPED Cars to Share with Drivers GOOD NEWS

THREE ANGELS > Circle GLOBE > Divine Announcement

Church Goes Forth in Name of Risen, Glorious Jesus > to the Ends of the Earth
ANOTHER CHANCE > for Some their LAST > How about You?

6. Then I saw another angel flying in midair and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.

7. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

8. A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

9. A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

10. he, too, 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.

11. 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."

12. This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

13. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

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