

Apocalypse Now (Revelation Revisited)

Session 11 / Wednesday, May 4, 2016

THE FALL OF BABYLON AND THE BEGINNING OF THE END

1 In these remaining chapters of Apocalyptic scripture (Revelation primarily) we will read
2 phrases that could puzzle us. Such as we studied in Rev. 6:8: **And I looked, and**
3 **behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with**
4 **him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with**
5 **sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.** The
6 logical question would be, “How can Antichrist kill that many people with a sword?” *It*
7 *is a principle in Scripture that a prophet always speaks to his own society in terms of the*
8 *culture of that society. If he talks about transportation it’s always by horse, camel,*
9 *donkey – never by airplane. If he speaks of farming, it’s always in terms of plowing with*
10 *an ox and reaping with a sickle. Even when the prophets look forward to Christ’s*
11 *millennial reign, they talk about the reaper overtaking the harvester, using speech that*
12 *was prevalent in their own day. When they speak of instruments of war in the future,*
13 *they always speak in terms of their own culture, so that they talk about swords, spears*
14 *and shields as the battle instruments. Those would represent any instrument which*
15 *might be developed and used in the future. So the fact that John does refer to swords*
16 *here does not mean that one-fourth of the earth’s population would have to be destroyed*
17 *by a physical sword. The sword could represent any instrument of destruction.*

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19
20 In Chapter 14 we will encounter several prophetic events: the Lamb of God, Jesus
21 Christ, on Mount Zion; the pronouncement of divine judgment upon the false religious
22 system of Babylon, and also the similar fate of those who have taken the mark of the
23 beast.

24
25 In the last chapter we saw the awful advent and careers of Antichrist and the False
26 Prophet along with their leader, Satan; Now...their time is drawing very short:

27
28 Rev. 14:1-20

29 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred
30 forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. [2]
31 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a
32 great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: [3] And
33 they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and
34 the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four
35 thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. [4] These are they which were not

1 defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb
2 whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits
3 unto God and to the Lamb. [5] And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are
4 without fault before the throne of God.

5 [6] And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting
6 gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and
7 kindred, and tongue, and people, [7] Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give
8 glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made
9 heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. [8] And there followed
10 another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made
11 all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [9] And the third angel
12 followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image,
13 and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, [10] The same shall drink of the
14 wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his
15 indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of
16 the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [11] And the smoke of their
17 torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who
18 worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
19 [12] Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of
20 God, and the faith of Jesus. [13] And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
21 Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the
22 Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

23 [14] And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto
24 the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
25 [15] And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that
26 sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap;
27 for the harvest of the earth is ripe. [16] And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his
28 sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. [17] And another angel came out of
29 the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. [18] And another angel
30 came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to
31 him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the
32 clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. [19] And the angel
33 thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into
34 the great winepress of the wrath of God. [20] And the winepress was trodden
35 without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles,
36 by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

37
38 This is one of the most difficult chapters in Revelation. Let's start with the 144,000 on
39 Mount Zion. Who are they? Are they the 144,000 sealed Jewish witnesses who
40 evangelized the earth as we read in Rev. 7? Or is this yet another group on the scene?

1 Let's refresh our memories. Starting with chapter 6 in Revelation, God pours out His
2 divine wrath on this lost world with three sets of judgments:

3 1. The **seal** judgments Chapter 6 - 7 Each time Jesus tore a seal off the scroll of
4 judgment another **judgment hit this earth.**

5 2. The **trumpet** judgments Chapters 8 - 15

6 3. The **bowl** (or vials) judgments Chapters 16 - 17

7
8 But remember the "parentheses" - the interludes within those three sets of judgements.
9 We are in chapter 14 so this information has to do with the trumpet judgments. It opens
10 with John seeing 144,000 saints with God on Mount Zion.

11
12 Three questions:

13 1. What is Mount Zion?

14 2. Are these the same 144,000 as before?

15 3. What's the time period in the Tribulation?

16
17 Chapter 14 takes place about midway through the awful seven year Tribulation. This
18 "kicks off" the GREAT TRIBULATION, a 3 ½ year period that would easily wipe out
19 humanity if God in His mercy didn't arbitrarily stop it.

20
21 Where? Bible scholars differ. I have books that inform me chapter 14 takes place in
22 heaven. Others disagree claiming it takes place in Jerusalem. LaHaye makes a good
23 point: *We know this is a scene in heaven because John sees 'the Lamb standing on*
24 *Mount Zion.'* *The Lamb of God will not be on the earth during the Tribulation (so) this*
25 *must be a scene in the heavenly Jerusalem described by the Holy Spirit in Hebrews*
26 *12:22-24 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the*
27 *heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, [23] To the general*
28 *assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the*
29 *Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, [24] And to Jesus the mediator*
30 *of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than*
31 *that of Abel.*

32
33 "Not so," claims J. Vernon McGee: *"This verse pictures a placid, pastoral scene which*
34 *open the millennial kingdom here upon this earth. Mount Zion is at Jerusalem. There is*
35 *no use trying to locate this at any other place than at Jerusalem in the land of Israel!"*

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37
38 You get the same division of response as to the IDENTITY of the 144,000. I am not
39 going to be dogmatic here. One thing is sure: These 144,000 are marvelous saints of
40 God.

- 41 • They are redeemed (14:1)

- 1 • They are morally pure 14:4)
- 2 • They are obedient and available for they follow Jesus wherever He leads (14:4)
- 3 • They tell the truth (14:5)
- 4 • They live blameless lives (14:5)

5
6 Now, rejoicing in their salvation around the throne, they receive the rewards of their
7 service to the King - just as you and I will one day (I Corinthians 3).

8 9 THE SUDDEN SHOCKING WITNESS

10
11 Verse 6 informs us of the first of five angels who appear over or on the earth to proclaim
12 the Gospel in the middle of the Tribulation. This is highly unusual because the spread of
13 the Gospel has been commissioned to human beings - the Great Commission. The use of
14 angels to proclaim the Glad Tidings points up the seriousness of the situation in the
15 Tribulation.

16
17 But we need to understand at this point in the Tribulation the persecution of Tribulation
18 saints is overwhelming! A revival is sweeping much of the world and Satan will throw
19 everything at his disposal to stop it. Hence the grand preaching of the angels. Their
20 message will NOT BE CHANGED from what we have in scriptures now. Will these
21 angels have more affect on sinful humanity? No. *There is no evidence that the angels*
22 *will be any more successful in preaching the eternal gospel than was Noah, the preacher*
23 *of righteousness before the Flood. On the contrary, it seems that people will pit their*
24 *will against God and succumb to the lying tongues of Satan's chief tools during this*
25 *period – the Antichrist and the False Prophet. We will discover in chapter 16 that the*
26 *angels' announcement will introduce the darkest days in human history.*
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28 29 THE FALL OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON

30
31 From its inception, which we read in Genesis 11, Babylon has stood against God - even as
32 nations around it today continue their evil practice. As we have noted earlier in our
33 series, a false system of religion, proclaimed by the False Prophet, will unite in
34 ecclesiastical and theological adultery with a world government, and it will blanket the
35 earth.

36
37 The False Prophet will use this global religion to help empower Satan and Antichrist to
38 set up their power. But somewhere along the line, Satan gets fed up with this religion
39 and destroys it. Rev. 14:8 **And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is**
40 **fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the**

1 **wrath of her fornication.**

2
3 From the days of Nimrod, early leader in Babylon (which means “Babble - or Confusion)
4 rulers have understood that to control the world they must control the economy as well as
5 the political realm. In REVELATION these two factors are termed “Babylon.” Both of
6 these systems will be dramatically ended at the end of the Tribulation, for THE KING IS
7 COMING! Christ will rule for 1,000 years. God will end the Babylons in a display of
8 divine fury unmatched in the history of the world.
9

10 **God’s blessing upon the Tribulation Saints**

Rev. 14:12-13

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. [13] And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

11
12 A great old song promises, “And the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the
13 light of His glory and grace!” One writer has penned, “One of the consistent chords of
14 the Scripture is the concept that present-day sufferings are inconsequential in view of the
15 eternal blessings prepared for those who love the Lord.”
16

17 Note that last line in verse 13: “And their words do follow them.” It is vital for the
18 follower of Christ to always remember:

- 19 • We are saved by the blood of Christ - not by our works.
- 20 • However – all rewards will subsequently be based upon our works.

21 Salvation is a GIFT and it is free; rewards are NOT A GIFT; they are earned. See I
22 Corinthians 3. So let us heed Jesus’ challenge: Matthew 6:20 **But lay up for**
23 **yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and**
24 **where thieves do not break through nor steal:**
25

26 **CHAPTER FIFTEEN - HEAVEN REVEALED!**

27 **Even As The Bowl Judgments (Vials) Erupt**

28
29 **Rev. 15:1-8**

30 **And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the**
31 **seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. [2] And I saw as it were**
32 **a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast,**
33 **and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on**
34 **the sea of glass, having the harps of God. [3] And they sing the song of Moses the**

1 servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy
2 works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. [4] Who
3 shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all
4 nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.
5 [5] And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the
6 testimony in heaven was opened: [6] And the seven angels came out of the temple,
7 having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts
8 girded with golden girdles. [7] And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels
9 seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. [8] And the
10 temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no
11 man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were
12 fulfilled.

13
14 Vs 1: "I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous...." Previously John had seen
15 the signs in chapter 12 of the woman representing Israel and the great red dragon
16 representing Satan. Now we are told of the last great judgment by God against the earth
17 and its inhabitants. Earlier judgments included the Tower of Babel destruction (again -
18 Babylon), the great Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and even the dispersions of the Jews
19 from Israel because of idolatry.

20
21 As this chapter opens, the scene is "a sea of glass." We learn more about that "sea" in
22 Revelation 4 when all the redeemed of the ages are gathered at the great throne of God,
23 before which is a SEA OF GLASS (Rev. 4:6 **And before the throne there was a sea of**
24 **glass like unto crystal:**).
25

26
Apparently what John saw was impossible to describe – it was so different from anything he had seen that he was compelled to describe it using a contradictory statement. Expressing the inexpressible may demand an oxymoron. Whatever John saw, it obviously had qualities both of the sea and of glass. Perhaps it had the sea's motion and expanse and glass's transparency and purity. Add to that the words "crystal" and "mingled with fire" and chances are that John was trying to convey the vivid brilliance, vast expanse and lucid purity of what he saw."

27
28 One thing is sure: every child of God will one day see with their own eyes what John
29 witnessed with his. We will be drawn to the throne of God and before it is this "sea of
30 glass, clear as crystal." Whatever it turns out to be, it will be one of the most amazing
31 things we have ever seen!

32
33 Beside that sea, John saw "those who had been victorious over the beast and his

1 image, and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God. (Vs
2 2)

3
4 That phrase means the persecuted and martyred Tribulation saints, those who would not
5 bow to Antichrist or take the mark.

6
7 **DEATH MEANS SOMETHING ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT FOR A CHILD OF**
8 **GOD THAN IT DOES FOR A NON-BELIEVER.** To a non-believer it is merely the
9 cessation of life. However, that concept is totally wrong. Life does not end; it continues
10 - either in Heaven or in Hell. During the Tribulation, every time a believer in Christ is
11 killed, Antichrist thinks he is cruelly punishing his enemy; in reality, he is giving that
12 saint an entre into Heaven and eternity. 1 Cor. 15:55-57 **O death, where is thy sting?**
13 **O grave, where is thy victory? [56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin**
14 **is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord**
15 **Jesus Christ.**

16
17 Further, these martyred saints will be rewarded by God Himself: James 1:12 **Blessed is**
18 **the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of**
19 **life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.** Rev. 2:10 **Fear none of**
20 **those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into**
21 **prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful**
22 **unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

23
24 **WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THOSE CROWNS?** Years ago, Gordon Jensen wrote
25 terrific song that answered that question. I had the privilege of recording the song with
26 Gordon's song with his orchestra:

27
28 *When earth's short day is far behind / and heaven's role complete*
29 *The One Who saved us will say well done / we'll cast our crowns at His feet*

30
31 *We'll cast our crowns at His nail scarred feet / our joy complete in His presence sweet*
32 *Eternity's greatest privilage will be casting our crowns at His feet.*

33
34 *We'll soon forget life's troubled past / for now a golden street*
35 *Is leading us to where we all can cast our crowns at His feet.*

36
37 Imagine the chagrin at meeting our Lord at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, bowing in
38 His presence, and having nothing to lay at those "nail-scarred feet."

39
40 Verse 2: John saw the martyred saints holding "harps given them by God." We cannot
41 begin to imagine the music of heaven!

1 Rev. 15:3 **And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God...** What was the
2 song of Moses? When the Egyptian Pharaoh and his armies pursued the people of Israel
3 into the Red Sea, and God marvelously delivered them by parting the waters, on the other
4 side Moses sang a song of victory: Exodus 15:1-27 **Then sang Moses and the**
5 **children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the**
6 **Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into**
7 **the sea. [2] The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is**
8 **my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.**
9 **[3] The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name. [4] Pharaoh's chariots and his**
10 **host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.**
11 **[5] The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. [6] Thy**
12 **right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath**
13 **dashed in pieces the enemy. [7] And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast**
14 **overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which**
15 **consumed them as stubble. [8] And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were**
16 **gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were**
17 **congealed in the heart of the sea. [9] The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I**
18 **will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my**
19 **hand shall destroy them. [10] Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them:**
20 **they sank as lead in the mighty waters. [11] Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among**
21 **the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?**
22 There is more to the song than that which I have not included in these notes for sake of
23 space but it is well worth your reading. **SO THE SONG OF MOSES IS ONE OF**
24 **DELIVERANCE AND THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF OUR GREAT GOD!** Can you
25 even imagine the Tribulation saints (millions of them!) sing that song to God in His very
26 presence?

27 28 THE HOLY OF HOLIES OPENED IN HEAVEN

29
30 Rev. 15:5-6 **And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the**
31 **testimony in heaven was opened: [6] And the seven angels came out of the temple,**
32 **having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts**
33 **girded with golden girdles.**

34
35 In the original **TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS** and in the two great **TEMPLES**
36 in Jerusalem was contained the small room known as **THE HOLY OF HOLIES**. In that
37 small enclosure was kept the Ark of the Covenant. In that small golden-covered chest
38 were Aaron's budding rod, a pot of manna and the ten commandments (Hebrews 9:3-4
39 **And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; [4] Which**
40 **had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold,**

1 **wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the**
2 **tables of the covenant;).** But Revelation 15:7 informs us that one of the four massive
3 cherubim (who fly over the throne of God continually in worship) gives seven angels
4 seven gold bowls or vials full of THE WRATH OF GOD. And the glory of God so
5 filled the Temple that no one was able to enter into it.

6
7 Normally, those who break God's laws are not the brunt of God's wrath on this earth -
8 that awaits them at the judgment and eternity. The exception is this scene during the last
9 three and a half years of the Tribulation. During this time God will pour out horrendous
10 judgment and calamity on the people of earth. This is a horror picture from scripture -
11 the pouring out of the seven vials of God's wrath - which we will explore next week.

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