

PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

# FOUR MESSAGES



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## Four Messages

**“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.”**

– Revelation 14:6

The Bible says the *eternal gospel* will be proclaimed to everyone living on earth during the Great Tribulation. The eternal gospel is a collection of changeless and eternal truths about the Godhead. The eternal gospel is like a molecule consisting of many atoms, with each atom representing a specific, eternal truth. Here are a few of the *atoms*.

- The Godhead will rule over the universe forever.
- The Godhead owns everything in the universe.
- Because the Godhead has all knowledge, their laws are perfect.
- Because the members of the Godhead are love, they granted the power of choice to their created beings.

Many more *atoms* are in this molecule, with *many* eternal truths combining to create the *eternal gospel*.

The eternal gospel is a timeless, non-negotiable demand with no beginning or end. Therefore, limiting the eternal gospel to the 1,335 days allotted for the Great Tribulation<sup>1</sup> would be a contradiction. The Father ordained the eternal gospel before time began. This gospel is that throughout eternity, all created beings must worship Jesus Christ, the Creator, just as they worship the Father.<sup>2</sup> This is why the term eternal, or everlasting, gospel is used. When Lucifer tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus reminded Lucifer of the eternal gospel.<sup>3</sup> Jesus is the Creator of everything that exists.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, every being in heaven and on earth is commanded to fear, honor, and worship Jesus the Creator. During the Great Tribulation, every human being will hear the 144,000 proclaim the eternal gospel, and everyone must submit to its demand or forfeit eternal life. This is the Father's will. Each person will determine his eternal destiny by his response to the eternal gospel.<sup>5</sup>

A display of divine power on the first day of the Great Tribulation will stop the world in its tracks. Jesus will

1 Daniel 12:12

2 John 5:22–23; 6:46; Philippians 2:6; Isaiah 40:25–28; Nehemiah 9:5–7

3 Matthew 4:10

4 Colossians 1:16

5 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14; Matthew 24:14

notify everyone that He has terminated the previous order of life. Jesus will take matters into His capable hands and ensure everyone hears and intelligently considers His gospel. During the Great Tribulation, every person on earth will listen to critical truths of the eternal gospel. These three truths are represented in Revelation 14:6–10 as announcements by the first three angels. These three truths do not have the power and authority they will have during the tribulation, but this does not diminish the significance of the eternal gospel. Eternal truths can be hidden for thousands of years and still be true! However, when the appointed time arrives, nothing is more potent than a truth revealed.

Soon, the Holy Spirit will empower 144,000 prophets who will proclaim the eternal gospel with uncommon power to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Everyone will hear them regardless of culture, language, or religion. Right now, people's minds are closed by religious arrogance. God loves us, and to open our diverse minds and overcome our preconceived ideas, He will traumatize humanity with a global earthquake with four trumpet judgments following in quick succession. The nations of earth will be ruined. The infrastructure of life will collapse.

Revelation 7:1–4 indicates that Jesus will select and seal 144,000 individuals before the Great Tribulation begins. When the global earthquake of Revelation 8:5 occurs, these people will start speaking for Jesus and testify for 1,260 days. Jesus will give them words to say; this is how the world will hear the eternal gospel during the Great Tribulation. The global earthquake will fracture the world into “small cells.” Travel will be nearly impossible. I believe each cell will contain at least one of the 144,000.

The subsequent events will occur in rapid succession. After the global earthquake, the first trumpet judgment will occur.<sup>1</sup> A fiery hailstorm of white-hot meteors will burn a third of the trees of earth and all the grass. The second trumpet judgment will be an enormous asteroid impact on an ocean, causing massive tsunamis that will destroy thousands of coastal cities and sink most ships.

Then, the third trumpet judgment will occur, and a continent will be impacted by an asteroid that will kill millions. It will shatter geological strata, allowing sewage and other poisons to contaminate underground springs for thousands of miles. Tens of millions will die from drinking contaminated water. The fourth trumpet

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 8:7

judgment will fall shortly after, and great darkness will spread over one-third of the earth. Hundreds of erupting volcanoes may cause this darkness.

I anticipate the first four trumpets will occur within 30 to 60 days. The death toll from the first four trumpets will be a staggering 25% of the earth's population. When these displays of divine wrath subside, all humanity will sit in darkness and silence. Every family will be grieving, stunned, overwhelmed, and frightened because they have just witnessed the reality of God's authority.

World order will collapse, and a crisis government will take over. Personal beliefs about God and in God will crumble. The eternal gospel will radiate with unparalleled power and authority in the disheveled and chaotic context of the Great Tribulation. Three *atomic* truths about Jesus will be proclaimed. The world will hear the truth about His divine authority, the terms and conditions of His salvation, and His wrath for defiance.

The first four trumpets of Revelation 8 will (a) darken the heavens, (b) burn up a third of the earth, (c) turn a third of the sea to blood, and (d) contaminate a third of earth's drinking water. The 144,000 will point to these judgments saying, **“Fear God and give Him glory,**

**because the hour of his judgment [of the living] has come. Worship him [the Creator] who [a] made the heavens, [b] the earth, [c] the sea and [d] the springs of water.”<sup>1</sup>**

### **The First Message**

I believe the 144,000 will predict the date of each trumpet judgment. This ability will prove they speak for Jesus. The 144,000 will say many things, but the essence of their testimony will be three simple messages originating in the eternal gospel. The first message will be, “Jesus is Sovereign over the nations of earth. Submit to His demands. Worship the Creator.” The Bible describes this message by saying, “**Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment [of the living] has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”<sup>2</sup>**

When the 144,000 proclaim the eternal gospel to the world with power and authority, the message will offend billions because most of the world opposes that Jesus Christ is almighty God, an equal with the Father in every way. Billion, including millions of Christians, reject the idea that Jesus is the Creator of heaven and

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1 Revelation 14:7, insertions mine

2 Revelation 14:7, insertion mine



earth<sup>1</sup> by denying His claim that He made the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

The 144,000's call to worship Jesus the Creator will be highly inflammatory to Moslems, Jews, Hindus, and other non-Christians who reject the divinity of Jesus. Many Christians consider this first call of the eternal gospel highly inflammatory because they think they can worship Jesus as they choose rather than according to His laws and commandments. The eternal gospel will upset almost everyone in one way or another, but the Father determined long ago that it must be presented as a testing truth before the end can come.<sup>2</sup> Jesus will send a series of divine judgments to unlock people's hearts and minds so they will hear the eternal gospel.

Jesus is a mystery character. Ask some of your Christian friends if the God of the Old Testament is Jesus or the Father. Most of the references to God in the Old Testament refer to Jesus. Jesus is Jehovah God, the Yahweh of the Old Testament. Most Christians do not know this. They think the God of the Old Testament is stern, legalistic, and deadly, and the God of the New Testament is forgiving and full of grace and life. Imag-

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1 John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:13-19

2 Matthew 24:14; Revelation 3:10

ine their surprise when they realize that Jesus is the same God in both testaments!

The Old Testament reveals that Jesus sent the flood that drowned an entire world in Noah's day. He also sent the fire that burned Sodom and Gomorrah because divine justice deemed it necessary. The New Testament also tells us that Jesus will destroy the wicked at His second coming.<sup>1</sup> This behavior seems contradictory to the sweet and lowly character of Jesus as He is described in the four gospels. This contradiction occurs because Jesus functions on two different levels.

As a member of the Godhead, Jesus *oversees* the sin problem on earth. As a man, Jesus demonstrated how God wants us to live in a sinful world. The Creator of earth came to earth to show us how to please God, not how to be God. Studying the behavior of Jesus in the Old Testament and the life of Jesus in the New Testament is thrilling because the "atomic" elements of the eternal gospel are revealed through the actions of Jesus! This is why the book of Revelation exists.

The book of Revelation brings all the other books of the Bible together to expose Jesus for all He is. Everything we know about the *eternal gospel* comes through

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 19:19–21

Jesus. **“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to [understand] the Father except through me. If you really know me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him [through me].’”**<sup>1</sup>

At first, out of fear, almost everyone will agree in principle with the 144,000 because the overwhelming destruction indicates that more destruction will be forthcoming if God’s wrath is not appeased. To maintain some semblance of order, governments of earth will impose martial law on their nations. Rationing will be necessary. earth’s leaders will meet for an emergency summit, and the Bible predicts they will quickly form a crisis government.

Considering all that has happened, leaders will conclude that the crisis government must be given authority over *all* nations to appease God’s wrath, or more destruction will undoubtedly follow. Because of the pope’s worldwide appeal, the Roman Catholic Church will lead a coalition of religious leaders in an effort to appease God.

The Bible predicts this coming event. **“And I saw a beast [the crisis government] coming out of the**

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:6–7, insertions mine

**sea** [of humanity]. **He had ten horns** [representing ten political leaders] **and seven heads** [representing seven religious leaders], **with ten crowns** [diadems of authority] **on its horns** [indicating political leaders will exercise authority], **and on each** [religious] **head a blasphemous name** [indicating the seven religions of the world are opposed to the authority of Jesus]. **The beast I saw resembled a leopard** [this parallels the swiftness of Grecia in Daniel 7], **but had feet like those of a bear** [this parallels the strength of the Medes and Persians in Daniel 7] **and a mouth like that of a lion** [this parallels the prowess of ancient Babylon in Daniel 7]. **The dragon** [Devil] **gave the beast** [the crisis government] **his power and his throne and great authority.** **One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound** [the Roman Catholic Church was wounded in 1798], **but the fatal wound had been healed.** **The whole world was filled with wonder** [bewildered] **and followed the beast** [did not resist]. **People worshiped** [submitted to] **the dragon because he had given authority to the beast** [the crisis government], **and they also worshiped** [submitted to] **the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war** [resist the laws of the crisis government] **against it?’** **The beast** [crisis government] **was**

**given a mouth to utter proud words** [claims demeaning the authority of Jesus] **and blasphemies and to exercise its authority** [on earth] **for forty-two months.**<sup>1</sup>

Now that we have a short synopsis of how Babylon, the crisis government, will form and what the 144,000 will be saying, we can understand the conflict the eternal gospel will produce.

**“Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people.”**

- Psalm 50:3–4

## **United in an Unthinkable Union**

The Bible indicates that the first four trumpet judgments of Revelation 8 will kill more than two billion people over 30 to 60 days. Because the religious and political leaders of the world do not understand apocalyptic prophecy, they will fearfully anticipate that more judgments will fall if something is not done quickly to appease God’s wrath. In panic and “in fear of the living God,” the world’s religious and political leaders will be invited to a summit to discuss God’s horrific actions.

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1 Revelation 13:1–5, insertions mine

Since the Roman Catholic Church already has relationships with most countries, it would likely host the summit. The outcome of this meeting will change the governance of the world forever. The book of Revelation predicts that the world's leaders will unite in an unthinkable union.<sup>1</sup>

When the first four trumpet judgments destroy thousands of cities and millions of square miles, everyone present at this solemn meeting will be afraid of God. Like Nebuchadnezzar, after he recovered from seven years of living as an animal, the world leaders will humbly acknowledge the sovereign authority of the highest God. They will notice that God's anger was directed at geographic locations known for degenerate behavior. This will prove in their minds that God observes the ways of man.

Everyone will understand God's wrath against sexual immorality, violence, and degenerate behavior.<sup>2</sup> At the summit, the world leaders will unite on three religious matters.

- World leaders will agree that all humanity must appease God through repentance and worship; otherwise, God's anger will destroy the whole world.

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:3–4

<sup>2</sup> 2 Chronicles 16:9; Colossians 3:5–6

- Religious leaders will unite and form a crisis authority to guide nations in repenting and worshipping God. Since the world is currently divided into large groups of diverse religions, the crisis authority will consist of representatives from the seven religious systems of the world.
- Political leaders will agree to follow the counsel of the crisis authority in matters of repentance and worship. These world leaders will believe that if they enforce the mandates of the crisis authority in their respective nations to appease God, His anger will cease.

Of course, these three decisions are unthinkable within today's world context, but the destruction caused by the first four trumpet judgments will immediately end this setting. Consider the conditions underlying these three crucial decisions and notice how simple they are.

- All religions believe in some form of repentance and the need to worship God. Repentance and worship will provide the religious framework for a global effort to appease God. After seeing the sudden destruction of more than 2 billion people, political leaders will not object. Desperate circumstances can make desperate solutions appear very reasonable. Do not

forget that after the World Trade Center disaster, the Patriot Act of 2001 took only 45 days to create and implement.

- The world's religious leaders will attempt to resolve a very thorny problem, which will only produce confusion. Seven antagonistic religious systems make up this world today. The diversity of humanity means that repentance and worship in Islamic countries cannot be identical to repentance and worship in Catholic countries. Therefore, the crisis authority will have seven religious leaders (the seven heads) who rule over their subjects. The mandates emanating from the crisis authority will be adapted to each nation. For example, Moslems will be directed in ways that are different from Catholics. Mixed messages from the crisis authority explain why the book of Revelation calls this beast Babylon, or confusion.
- The world's political leaders will be forced to admit that God can be appeased only if the individual's rights are subjugated to the survival of the whole nation.

Religious and political leaders will claim that if God remains offended by the sinful behavior of a minor-



ity, which brought on His wrath in the first place, the majority will continue to suffer more of God's wrath. Therefore, every nation must obey the mandates of the crisis authority. You may be surprised that this development will not be difficult to achieve. Here is why:

When the first four trumpet judgments occur, martial law will be implemented in all nations. Most nations will have to suspend current constitutional rights due to the overwhelming destruction and disruption of national infrastructures. To maintain a semblance of order and to keep gangs from preying upon the elderly and the weak, civil authorities will be granted enormous, deadly power with little legal restraint. Because of the devastation, martial law will already be in place and constitutional rights suspended. The crisis authority will be able to direct, without opposition, the governments of all nations on matters of repentance and worship because constitutional provisions will have been suspended due to the catastrophic events.

I believe the pope will be elected as head of the crisis authority. **“One of the [seven] heads of the beast [the crisis government] seemed to have had a fatal wound [1798], but the fatal wound had been healed.”**<sup>1</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:3

pope will be elected to lead the crisis government because his church is the only church having diplomatic ties with most nations. The pope will neither usurp the powers of governments nor dictate how every nation must repent and worship. Remember, there are seven heads.

Instead, he will lead the world ecumenically toward repentance and worship. His Moslem, Protestant, and Jewish counterparts will follow his lead. In this setting, the world's various religions will tell their respective nations how to govern. Out of fear, sinless laws will be implemented in every land, and civil authorities will punish every person who disobeys. The government within each nation will retain its civil power. Still, the world's governments will be obligated to carry out the reforms mandated by the crisis authority, believing God's wrath may fall again.

Remember, the clergy will not have to prove that God is angry with the degenerate behavior of the earth's population. Every nation will have significant deaths and ruined infrastructures as evidence. With 25% of the population dead and 33% of the world destroyed, political leaders will conclude that their highest priority is to appease God.

Thus, Revelation predicts that the kings of the earth will follow a religiously controlled crisis authority, and the circumstances will force politicians (like Pilate) to carry out the demands of religious leaders within their respective nations. This explains how the global church-state, the first beast of Revelation 13, also called Babylon because of its confusion, will rise.<sup>1</sup>

It appears this beast will rule over the nations of earth for 1,260 days.<sup>2</sup> I understand that Lucifer will physically appear at the end of 890 days. After dissolving the world's religions into a one-world religion, he will set himself up as lord of lords and king of kings. The Devil will masquerade as almighty God and reign over earth for about 445 days.

## **The Second Message**

**“A second angel followed and said, ‘ Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.’”**

- Revelation 14:8

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1 Revelation 13:1

2 Revelation 13:5

## A Horrible Disaster

The Great Tribulation will begin with a global earthquake<sup>1</sup> followed by a rapid sequence of four divine judgments—the first four trumpets, Revelation 8:6–12. When God’s wrath begins, the Bible predicts that the world’s religious and political leaders will unite in an unthinkable union.

This union, or crisis authority, is represented in the Bible as a composite beast that rises out of the sea.<sup>2</sup> Survivors will accept this union of religious and political powers as a sincere and desperate effort to appease God through **repentance and worship**. The Bible indicates that all the world will follow<sup>3</sup> and worship the beast except those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.<sup>4</sup> The marriage of religion and politics will be a horrible disaster. Ironically, man’s efforts to appease God will increase human suffering and offend God even more.

## Religions Put on Display

God has designed a brilliant process to prove to the honest in heart that all world religions are blasphemous.

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1 Revelation 8:5

2 Revelation 13:1

3 Revelation 13:3

4 Revelation 13:8

mous and opposed to God. To bring this revelation about, Jesus will send an initial volley of four judgments, and predictably, the world leaders will come together in a global effort to appease God.

The nations and religions of the world will unite, at least *in principle*, based on the need for repentance and worship. In this setting, the first two messages presented by the 144,000<sup>1</sup> will have a powerful and stirring context. The first message to fear God, repent and give Him the glory He is due, and worship the Creator, Jesus Christ, will confuse many people because it is like the message from the beast—the crisis authority. However, Jesus demands a different repentance and worship than what the beast, the crisis authority, demands. This is how the conflict between man's laws and God's laws begins.

Interestingly, Adam and Eve's first two sons had a clash over worship, and the same type of conflict will occur between the last of Adam and Eve's offspring. God has carefully designed a series of events contrasting His truth with man's rebellion.

These events will produce a powerful contest that ultimately separates the sheep from the goats. Several

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 14:6-8

revelations will occur during the Great Tribulation. One revelation will be the blasphemous nature of religion. Another revelation will be man's need to forsake his sins and receive Jesus as Savior. The greatest revelation will be that Jesus Christ is God and has all the prerogatives and powers of God the Father!

These revelations will be bittersweet. For the honest in heart, they will be wonderful to understand, but they will come with a high price. The eternal gospel will separate family and friends. Many will rejoice and respond to God's call for repentance and worship. However, a majority, like Cain, will reject the repentance and worship that God requires. In its place, they will substitute the repentance and worship they prefer to give. Like Cain, when wicked people see God's approval for His children, they will do everything they can to keep others from obeying God and receiving His approval!

### **Babylon—The Crisis Authority**

The world has seven religious systems, represented by the seven blasphemous heads of the beast in Revelation 13. Hundreds of variants exist within these systems, and *every one* is false! This fact provides the

basis for the second angel's message,<sup>1</sup> which contains three declarations.

First, the 144,000 will make a startling announcement: "The crisis authority (Babylon) does not represent the interests of God." Babylon does not have the right answer and cannot appease God's wrath because Babylon is fallen. The word *fallen* means *brought down* or *exposed as false*. Religious people look *up* to their spiritual leaders for information and truth about God and His will. However, the 144,000 will declare that all religions are false and created by fallen man. If religious leaders understood God's plan for the Great Tribulation, they could foretell the sequence of events that Jesus intends to follow, and they would strenuously object to the formation of Babylon, the crisis authority.

Second, the 144,000 will announce that the union of the religious and political leaders to appease God is a great mistake. When religious and political leaders convene and form the crisis authority, political leaders will *drink* two intoxicating ideas presented by the clergy.

The clergy will convince political leaders that if they implement global repentance and worship, God will

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1 Revelation 14:8

be appeased, and His judgments will cease. The clergy will also persuade political leaders that they can only implement repentance and worship of God by mandating *sin-less* laws. The world's political leaders will swallow this horrific error after viewing and experiencing the overwhelming destruction caused by God's wrath. Fear of God and uncertainty about His wrath will make the doctrine (wine) of appeasement appear reasonable (intoxicating), but the results will be maddening and flawed.

Third, adultery is used throughout the Bible to convey the idea of moral corruption and unfaithfulness. When ancient Israel abandoned the laws of God, He called them adulterers.<sup>1</sup> The second message says, “**‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.**”

The phrase “**the maddening wine of her adulteries**” points to the *immoral result* of an intoxicating idea. Political leaders will “prostitute” their appointed purpose<sup>2</sup> when they “get in bed” with religious leaders and impose laws demanding repentance and worship. The last resort of false religion is force. The 144,000

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1 Jeremiah 9:2; Hosea 7:1-4

2 Romans 13:1



will boldly condemn the maddening wine (the idea that God can be appeased with forced repentance and worship) and the resulting adultery (the union of church and state to accomplish repentance and worship).

I have said many times that the second angel's message could be the most challenging message the 144,000 gives because people who resist the repentance and worship laws mandated by Babylon will *appear* defiant toward God. Because a large majority of people will be in one accord on the necessity of appeasing God and the formation of Babylon, our peers will think that we are opposed to appeasing God when, in reality, we will be opposed to the dictates of Babylon!

The resulting confusion will be maddening because the laws mandating repentance and worship will be uniquely established in different nations. Hapless civil servants will be required to enforce laws that are religious in nature. Thoughtful, good people will be punished for refusing to follow the beast, the crisis authority.

For 890 excruciating days, this will be the order (actually, disorder) caused by the formation of Babylon. As a result, humanity's suffering will increase, and man's rebellion against God and hatred for His saints

will intensify as it becomes clearer and more apparent that mankind made a horrible mistake by creating Babylon. May the Lord give us grace and strength to stand firm for His eternal gospel, which has no beginning or end.

### **The Third Message**

**“A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on the forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.’”**

– Revelation 14:9–10

After you read the third angel’s message, I have three questions. First, the Bible indicates that certain people will be tormented at the second coming with burning sulfur in the presence of Jesus and His angels. Why does a God of love do this? Second, why would anyone obey the beast and receive his mark? Last, who is the beast that will impose his mark upon humans so that no one may buy or sell without the mark?

We will start with the last question. The Bible teaches that the fallen angel, Lucifer, is the beast that will gain control of the whole world. The Devil himself is the beast that will rise “out of the earth” in Revelation 13:11. We know this because Lucifer is the *angel* king who is released from the Abyss in Revelation 9:11. In other words, Lucifer and his fallen angels will be released from the spirit realm, and be given physical bodies. They will take control of earth and destroy one-third of humanity.<sup>1</sup>

The full cup principle is based on the idea that God *measures* the actions of humanity. We add sin to our cup of grace every time we do wrong. When God’s grace has been displaced by willful sin, our cup becomes full of bitterness, and we must drink the consequences of our actions. God *measures* the actions of nations similarly. When a nation’s cup of transgression is nearly full, God breaks His silence by sending a warning through His selected messengers. If the warning does not work, He uses one or more of His four deadly judgments—sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts.<sup>2</sup>

God sends a “destroyer” when people become hopelessly decadent. For example, when the Amorites

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1 Revelation 9:15

2 Ezekiel 14:21; Revelation 6:8

filled their cup of iniquity, God destroyed them with the sword of Israel.<sup>1</sup> When the Amalekites filled their cup, God destroyed them with the sword of Israel.<sup>2</sup> God sent King Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem when the Israelites filled their cup.<sup>3</sup>

When Babylon filled its cup, God sent the Medes and Persians to destroy Babylon.<sup>4</sup> Later, when Israel filled its cup again, God sent the Roman general, Titus, to destroy Jerusalem in AD 70.<sup>5</sup> During the fifth trumpet, the Devil and his angels will be released from the Abyss, and during the sixth trumpet, they will kill one-third of mankind!

Humanity will be powerless. God will permit the Devil to destroy one-third of humankind so that two distinct groups will be left. One group will be worshiping (obeying) the *Lamb* beast, Jesus,<sup>6</sup> and the other group will be worshiping (obeying) the *lamb-like* beast, Lucifer.<sup>7</sup> The Bible describes Lucifer in different ways. He is represented as a dragon in Revelation 12. He is represented as the lamb-like beast in Revelation 13:11 and is described as the *man of sin* in 2 Thessalonians

1 Amos 2:10

2 1 Samuel 15

3 Jeremiah 25:9

4 Jeremiah 25:12; Daniel 5

5 Daniel 9:26

6 Revelation 5:6

7 Revelation 13:11

2.<sup>1</sup> Lucifer is also represented as the king of the North in Daniel 8 and 11:36–45 because divine judgments come from the north.<sup>2</sup>

The devil is the angel king from the Abyss<sup>3</sup> who rules over a host of demons (represented as a swarm of locusts), and he is the Antichrist who will take control of earth.<sup>4</sup> The seriousness of the beast's mark is found in the identity of the beast who imposes his mark on human beings!

Consider the second question. People will worship Lucifer and receive his mark to *survive*. No one will be able to buy or sell (survive) unless they submit to Lucifer's authority and receive his mark. The Bible indicates the mark (Greek: *charagma* – means an etching) of the beast is either the number 666 tattooed (etched) on the right hand or it will be Lucifer's assumed name tattooed (etched) on the forehead of his human leaders.<sup>5</sup>

God permits the Devil to take over the earth's food supply to demonstrate, **“The righteous will live by faith.”**<sup>6</sup> Because salvation comes through faith in

1 Read Isaiah 14:12–16 and notice that Lucifer is called a man.

2 Jeremiah 1:14; 25:9; 51:48

3 Revelation 9:11

4 Revelation 17:8

5 Revelation 13:16–18

6 Romans 1:17

Christ, the faith of the living must be tested to see who will live by faith in Christ!<sup>1</sup>

Now, we come to the first question. “Why will Jesus torture people who have the mark of the beast with burning sulfur?” Here are three reasons:

- Those who receive the beast’s mark will refuse to submit to God and His law.
- Second, those receiving the mark of the beast will demonstrate they have no morals or conscience. They will willingly accept the mark to save themselves, knowing it is evil.
- Third, those who accept the mark of the beast will directly oppose God's sovereign authority. Everyone who receives the mark of the beast will be a mirror of Lucifer, so they will oppose God’s authority if they have Lucifer’s powers.

God will torture the wicked with burning sulfur because they tortured His saints. God’s wrath against violence is called restitution. **“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”**<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 3:10

<sup>2</sup> Romans 12:19, KJV

## **The Fourth Message**

**“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”**

- Revelation 18:1–3

When the sixth trumpet sounds near the end of earth’s history, God will allow Satan to make the outrageous claim that he is the almighty God and will kill anyone who opposes him. The fourth angel’s message will come at a time when all people on earth are afraid for their lives. Lucifer’s forces will be killing one-third of humankind, and people will stand in line to receive the beast’s mark on their right hand. The fourth message contains a tender invitation as well as a grave threat.

Jesus will speak through His servants and say, **“Come out of her [the great whore, Lucifer’s theocracy] my people . . . for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. [He will] Give back to her as she has given; [He will] pay her back double for what she has done.”**<sup>1</sup>

When the sixth trumpet begins, I believe the Holy Spirit’s power will rest on the 144,000 in an unusual way. God’s prophets will glow with radiant light as Moses did when he came down from Mt. Sinai.<sup>2</sup> This illumination will be so glorious that it will be difficult to look at the 144,000. This manifestation of divine power will produce the highest possible credibility. God’s prophets will proclaim truth, grace, and mercy. It seems incredible that even with this dramatic display of power, very few people will repent and be saved, but God’s love for sinners knows no bounds. If I am correct and the 144,000 shine with supernatural glory during the closing days of salvation’s offer, this could explain how the splendor of the fourth angel illumines the whole world. I cannot think of a more effective way to announce to the world that where sin abounds, much more grace abounds!<sup>3</sup>

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1 Revelation 18:4–6, insertions mine

2 Exodus 34:29–35

3 Revelation 18:1; Romans 5:20



During the sixth trumpet, Jesus will speak through His glorified servants in the clearest and tenderest of terms, “ **‘Fallen!** [false and blasphemous] **Fallen is** [the harlot-theocracy of Lucifer,] **Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird and detestable animal** [this language refers to the fact that vultures feed on dead flesh without any concern for whose flesh it might have been]. **For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries** [the whole world is intoxicated with the lies and grandiose plans promoted by Lucifer]. **The kings of the earth committed adultery with her** [the kings of the earth have immorally united with Lucifer’s whore, they have allowed her religious power to usurp their civil powers], **and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries** [the merchants are those people who went along with the whore for financial gain. They are like vultures who feed on the poor and become fat and rich through extortion].’ **Then I heard another voice from heaven say:** ‘[Jesus himself will speak to the whole world:] **Come out of her, my people** [though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow—if you will repent now of your rebellion. Please come now, come out

today], so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.’ ”<sup>1</sup>

Now that we have briefly examined the four angels' messages in Revelation 14, I will close this study on the everlasting gospel with five salient points:

- God governs the universe with His rule of love.
- God uses His magnificent powers to ensure that the principles of love are exalted and honored.
- Because He is love, God gives His children the power of choice. We are free to rebel or submit to His rule of love.
- God has allowed sin to flourish for a period so that we will experience the consequences of rebellion against the principle of love.
- God will destroy all traces of rebellion at His appointed time, and the universe will finally be free from the cancer of sin.

I am excited about this coming day!

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 18:2-4

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