

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 23 (14:9-20)

The Sickle of Judgment

Introduction: Review verse 6 - begins the angels of judgment. Jesus begins now to speak of what was coming, judgment. Every line speaks of judgment. Those with Jesus will never be judged but those without Jesus will be judged. The unbeliever will stand at judgment. No matter what your life without Jesus Christ has been, you will be judged. Jesus came for the first time to save, and now He is coming the second time to judge.

v6 - We are going to see seven angels. This is the first one. This angel is coming to prepare the world for judgment. He comes with the everlasting Gospel. **GOD IS A GOD OF GRACE BEFORE JUDGMENT.** Nobody goes to hell without a chance to be saved. There is no such thing as a person going to hell without a chance to believe.

v7 - judgment is about to come

v8 - "Babylon is fallen" - all evilness has failed, evilness will go to hell.

v9 - "if" - first class condition - a true statement.

Near the end of the tribulation, the Roman empire will be revived. It will be a two-fold, political, religious thing. Freedom always goes when the State and religion get together. Remember the coin "render to Caesar the things of Caesar and to God the things of God?" A separation of Church and State. Nobody is to reach out and lay the hand upon the Church. The Church is separate from the State. People have no freedom then if both go together. But there is coming a time when everybody is under one religion and the government is going to control it. Look at India, Buddhism, Hinduism, look at the people, starving, hundreds of thousands starving and hundreds of thousands of cattle roaming the countryside. Their religion says don't eat cows, their government says don't eat cows. The same thing is coming.

v10 - "cup of indignation" - when Jesus was speaking about taking the sins of the people, He spoke of a cup, "will I not drink of this cup? A figure of speech. Every sin of the human race was poured into the cup. Jesus drank down the sins of man. If a person refuses to accept what Jesus did for him/her, drinking of the cup, then Jesus is going to make that person drink of the cup of his/her indignation. Either let Jesus drink for you or drink it yourself. That's what this means. Any person refusing to accept what Jesus Christ did for him/her on the cross will drink of his/her own indignation.

- "without mixture" - not diluted, full strength, straight.

v11 - "for ever and ever" - is hell everlasting?

- "no rest" - those who do not believe in Jesus Christ will be in hell forever. "Hades" is a Greek word, "Sheol" is a Hebrew word, "Torments" is another word. "Abraham's bossom" is another place, "Paradise" is the same place. All the Old Testament saints went to Abraham's Bossom or Paradise. When Jesus Christ died and ascended, He carried back to Heaven all the Old Testament Saints. That's why He said to the thief, "...today you shall be with me in Paradise." Corinthians and Ephesians explain it - "If you don't put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, then the moment you die, your soul goes to a place of torment and will be there until the end of the millennial reign of Jesus, then at that time, your body will be resurrected and joined with your soul and you will stand before Jesus Christ, body and soul for judgment. Then your soul, body and spirit will be cast into hell forever.

IF A PERSON DIES WITHOUT ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR, THERE IS NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO TO HELP HIM/HER. It is no use. "...as the tree falls, so shall it lie..." All who bow and worship the beast, they will be punished forever.

v12 - "here is the patience of the saints" - There will be millions saved.

v13 - "write" - aorist tense, right now

- "die in the Lord" - not all of a sudden, but one by one, a long, lingering death.
- "rest from their labors" - when you accept Jesus Christ, you can REST in Christ's salvation. "I will give you rest.." Then you can take the promises of God and you REST upon those promises. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and shall mount up on wings as Eagles and they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and faint not.." That is the REST of waiting upon God. At the end of your life comes the "third" REST and that is the eternal peace coming from God. Perfect with much going on, but a rest from perfection.

v14 - HERE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSE OF THIS STUDY;

A picture of the Son of God - look at it:

- "Son of man" - Jesus Christ
- "golden crown" - Remember those watching from the Mt. of Olives as Jesus ascended in a cloud? That same body that was crucified (Hebrews 1:13). Jesus Christ sat down and ever since then He has been waiting for the right moment to get up and come back. Then He has been watching every thing we do and think, and thirdly, He has been praying, making intercession for us through all the centuries He has been doing this.

NOW THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION:

- "crown" - Why a crown? The crown of His authority. He is now chief of all the universe, ONLY Jesus Christ will rule. Remember Satan wanted to give Jesus a crown during the time he tempted Jesus. The people wanted to give Jesus a crown but Jesus knew it wasn't the time nor the crown He wanted.
- "sharp sickle" - mowing down. Here is the Christ of judgment. Have you ever seen a picture of Jesus described in this passage?

v15 - "loud voice" - shouting

- "reap" - been waiting and watching, get up and reap
- "ripe" - reap the harvest. the day of the second coming of Jesus is here, but only God knows when the time is ripe.

v16 - "thrust" - the second coming. No details here, but later in chapter 19. This is the second coming. Everything will be at Jesus' feet. When Queen Victoria, a girl of 18, was crowned Queen of England, everybody started singing the "Hallelujah Chorus." Tears started streaming down her cheeks and she removed the crown. This startled everyone and she said, "I just couldn't wear this crown. Jesus is the only one worthy to wear a crown. She laid the crown down at the foot of the throne. Never before has England had such a bright era of Christian achievements. All because their leader recognized that ONLY Jesus Christ is worthy to wear a crown.

v17 - "another angel" - an assisting angel of Jesus at the battle of Armageddon. The little country of Palestine (means going and coming) located between three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa) will be the location of the greatest battle this world has ever known. Armies from all over the world will gather there to do battle. Jesus Christ will return, wearing His golden crown with His sickle in His hand and He will mow down all these armies of opposition and beast worship. There will be a great slaughter.

v18 - "fully ripe" - overdue - God's Grace has waited and waited and now judgment is over due. When Jesus and the angels put in the sickles, hundreds of thousands and millions will die.

v19 - "vine of the earth" - people can accept Jesus Christ and be saved or they can reject Him and be crushed and damned. This is the picture. There is NO middle ground. All unbelievers will drink of the cup of the wrath of God. Believers will never drink for Jesus has already drank for them (us).

v20 - "1600 furlongs" - that's 176 miles. Blood is going to run as deep as the horses' bridles for 176 miles. This is going to be the greatest slaughter of all times. Jesus Christ wearing the golden crown with the sickle in His hand is going to win that battle.

Is this weird? Is this strange? Don't ever let anybody tell you that it is hard to understand. You tell them that you have seen and heard it explained and it is as clear as day to you.....

Get ready for the next study, it will be about "preparing for judgment."