

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #29 | Revelation 14:8-13 | Flash Forward, Part 2

### Revelation 14:8-11 | Two More “Warning” Angels

- In this “flash forward” we have a total of three “warning” angels. The first warned the world with the **everlasting gospel** in verses 6-7 (see sermon #28).
- Angel #2: Revelation 14:8
  - This angel warns of that which is about to come, and which happens just prior to the Second Coming: *the fall of Babylon*.
  - Many presume Babylon to be symbolic of some worldly system or way of life.
    - While it certainly represents a way of thinking (and thus living), the Scripture calls Babylon **that great city**.
    - There is nothing in the context for us to presume anything other than Babylon being a **great city**.
  - Most of the “creative theology” which makes an allegory out of Babylon does so because Babylon currently does not exist as a city. Since it does not exist, many conclude, it must therefore be symbolism.
  - We must allow Scripture to interpret itself.
    - Babylon is always a “real” city in other places in Scripture.
      - The word is used 286 times, giving more than enough cross-reference material.
      - The word is used 6 times in the New Testament outside of Revelation. In 5 of those uses, scholars always take the city as literal. In the 6<sup>th</sup> (1 Pet. 5:13) there is no reason (save preconception) *not* to take it literal.
    - Babylon as a city was the epitome of living without and against God. Many non-literal Bible teachers consider the USA to be Babylon. This is purely make-believe.
    - Isaiah 13 predicts its total and permanent destruction, to the point that **it shall never be inhabited** (Is. 13:20). This has never come to pass. The destruction was said to be in **the day of the Lord** (Is. 13:9), which aligns with the book of Revelation.
    - Since everything Biblical speaks of the *future* destruction of Babylon, and since Babylon is not a

great city today, there must be a *future Babylon* that will be rebuilt (see the book “Future Babylon” by Charles Dyer for more information).

- The fall of *future Babylon* will be described further in Revelation 17-18.
- Angel #3: Revelation 4:9-11
  - This angel warns against getting the Mark of the Beast.
  - The verses need no interpretation: those who get it will be tormented forever in **fire and brimstone** (v.10) and shall **have no rest day or night** (v. 11).
  - This applies to **whosoever receiveth the mark of his name** (v. 11).

### Revelation 14:12-13 | The Salvation of Future Days

- Currently we live in a dispensation in which eternal life is a *gift* that is *given in full* by God to *anyone who comes to Him through faith*.
- Our current dispensation ends with the rapture of the church.
- There is a *salvation* offered in the future, but it received very differently than the salvation we receive today: It is always *contingent* on faithfulness (not faith).
  - It involves **the patience of the saints** (v. 12). The word **patience** is ὑπομονή [hupomone], which is literally “in abiding.”
  - They must **keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus**. While a believer today is eager to respond graciously to the grace of God, these words of verse 12 are clearly *works* words.
  - Those who refuse the mark are likely going to die, thus verse 13 says, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord**.
    - This verse proclaims the blessedness of their death in that coming age. The coming “Day of Jacob’s trouble” is a day of God’s wrath, not of God’s patience. To live in those days will be to live in the *worst of times*. Death will become a blessing.
    - Note that **their works do follow them** because they will be living in an age of the Law.

### Concluding Thoughts

- Our world today is bad. But it is going to be *much worse*.
- Salvation today is a *free gift* which no person should reject.
- The “congregation of the saved” (the Body of Christ, the church) will be raptured from this earth prior to these horrible days. In this we rejoice!