

## ***Session 8. Second Coming and Rapture: War in the Spirit (Rev. 11-14)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Tonight we are beginning session eight out of the twelve part series on the book of Revelation. We are obviously going to cover these three and a half chapters quite rapidly. In this session we are looking at the rapture of the Church and the victory of the eschatological war.

“Eschatological” just means “end times.” I want everybody to learn that word.

This is an eschatological generation. It is the only time in history when God is raising up the Body of Christ to prepare for an eschatological shift of history. It is not just a revival. It is a shift of history to another age. That is what is on the Holy Spirit’s agenda for the Church.

A lot of people’s vision is breakthrough in the marketplace and for others it is breakthrough in the Church, meaning, having some Church growth, souls saved, and powerful healings. Others people’s vision is changing different facets of society. Other people’s vision is the Holy Spirit moving in the home and renewing the family. All those visions are critical and on God’s heart, but only in one generation of time do they all fit together into another purpose. There will be an eschatological shift of human history. All of those things are working together for something so dramatic and so dynamic; it will be ten-fold beyond the sum total of any one of those themes.

The Church is being raised up under Jesus’ leadership to lead the nations through this great change of history—an eschatological shift of history—far more than a revival or an outpouring.

### **OVERVIEW**

The overview of these several chapters. We are looking at—paragraph A—the third section in the book, where the chronological events are unfolding in order. Jesus’ action plan unfolds.

There are five chronological sections in which the events unfold. We are at the third one. What is happening in this section is the rapture of the Church and the immediate replacement of all the governments of the earth. That is the point on which John focuses. All of the governments of the earth will be replaced in a “suddenly” of God, in a short period of time, against their will.

They will not agree with their authority being replaced. They will be against it, but Jesus insists on it and it will happen very rapidly. It will be very bloody. The church will lead the way through prophetic intercession, and the enemy will strike the church with physical weapons, killing people.

We will strike back through prayer, fasting, proclamation and trusting God to release the heavenly arsenal from above. We will not have physical weapons, but there will be physical, discernable strikes from heaven which will destroy the Antichrist powerbase.

It really will be a war and history will really shift to another age. The Body of Christ will be here, leading the way. We will get resurrected bodies and we will stay on the earth to govern through this change of history.

### **ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS**

Paragraph B. The parenthetical sections are the sections which are in parentheses, which I will refer to as the times when the angels give an explanation about what is going on.

In the chronological sections, we see the events one after the other. In the parenthetical sections the angels are giving an explanation to John, telling him and showing him the why behind the what. For instance, they are showing him what is happening behind the scenes. What the angel is going to explain to John is, “Why is it necessary to so violently replace all the governments of the earth?”

This is a really dramatic concept. If one nation turns over its government in a conflict, it is tremendously chaotic for that nation for years to come. All the governments are going to be turned over in conflict—all together—in a “suddenly” of God.

These angelic explanation sections, which are in parentheses in the story line, are addressing the question, “Why is it necessary for such a dramatic overthrow of all the governments at the same time? Is there not a better way? Is there not a softer approach to this that would still get the job done?”

The next question being answered in these angelic explanations to John is, “What is going to happen to the saints? What is going to happen to us?” In these parentheses, where the story line is put on hold, the angel tells John how bad it gets in terms of the Antichrist attacking us and how good it gets in terms of God helping us. Those are generally the themes in these parenthetical sections—the parentheses in the storyline.

### **THE FINAL PRAYER AROUND THE THRONE**

Roman numeral II. The rapture and the replacement of all the world governments. The seventh angel sounds. The voices in heaven cry out, “The kingdoms of the world”—that means all the world governments—“are now replaced” ( Rev. 11:15, paraphrased). The leadership, the people and the policies are now all different. They are now under the government of Jesus.

We are so used to this verse because it shows up in worship songs and it is kind of a neat thing, but if you think about what that sentence means, it is the most dramatic thing imaginable in world history. Basically what they are praying is the Lord’s prayer, “Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” This is the final prayer around the throne. Loud voices proclaim, “Release Your kingdom on the earth” (v. 15, paraphrased). The Lord’s prayer is answered on the earth in a massive way.

## **A HOSTILE TAKE OVER**

What happens—verse 18—is a hostile take over. Jesus is actually leading a hostile take over, because the nations are angry with Jesus over this concept.

You can see the anger in the nations already emerging in the earth. When there is an insistence on righteousness in laws, people get angry. They rise up and they begin to voice their concern and their anger.

Well, it is going to go to a far greater level than any time in history. The anger in the nations will rise up and they will say to Jesus, “No, You cannot lead our nation.”

Jesus will say, “Yes, I will lead your nation.” And the Praying Church is actually leading the charge on earth through prophetic intercession and proclamation.

It is the time when the saints will be rewarded. They are raptured and they get their reward—all the saints. It is the time when the Lord will completely destroy—that is the idea—He will destroy everyone on the earth who takes the mark of the beast and resists Jesus’ leadership. They will be completely destroyed starting at this time.

## **RAPTURED, TRANSFORMED, AND MOBILIZED**

Paragraph B. Revelation 10:7 (paraphrased), “When the seventh angel sounds the trumpet, the plan of God will be completed.” This is the time in history when God’s plan will now be completed. That plan is to drive evil off the planet and to raise up His people who will rule the nations of the earth with Him.

Daniel 7:14 says that it is God’s plan for the saints to rule all the nations with the Messiah completely. That plan is now complete at the seventh trumpet. The church is caught up, given new resurrected bodies, and mobilized to take governmental responsibilities over the earth.

Paragraph C. Paul the apostle made it clear that it is at the last trumpet—and the last trumpet is the seventh trumpet—when the church will be raptured.

In this actual passage, John does not describe the rapture. You would think he would describe what it is like for us to be in the sky getting new bodies, but in these chronological sections where the events are being told, John focuses on what is going on in the earth. He stays true to the pattern. He only tells us the earthly consequences of what is happening in the spirit.

Paragraph D. This is a new idea for many people. Because many people have never studied the end times with any kind of depth. They may have studied one or two points, but there are many facets to Jesus’ end-time action plan.

### **THE MEETING IN THE AIR**

Jesus raptures the church, which means that the church will be caught up in the air. We will be transformed and mobilized to take over the earth. We are not raptured and taken away. That is a wrong concept. We will be raptured to be transformed and mobilized to govern the earth.

I mean, imagine what is going on here in the rapture. I do not know the numbers, but say there are a billion believers from Adam to now in heaven—a billion of them from history. Let's say that there are a billion believers on the earth now—that is what they estimate. And let's say that there is another billion coming in the great harvest. No one knows those numbers, but this is just for the sake of getting the picture: two to three billion people.

Where are they going to meet? It is as if Jesus says, "In the sky." There is no other place for three billion people to meet, because the cities of the earth have been destroyed by the judgments of God.

Jesus does not want eight services that Sunday. He wants them all together in one place. All three billion, whatever the number is—it is billions, two or three billion, who knows—He mobilizes them all together in the sky to take over the earth. That is what the rapture is. We have had the really wrong idea that we will be raptured, that we will go away, and come back suddenly. No, we are raptured to be transformed, mobilized, and unified, in order to engage in Jesus' action plan on the earth.

### **THE SECOND COMING PROCESSION**

After the seventh trumpet, there is a thirty day period in the Bible. It is clearly in the Bible. I have the notes there. There is a very dynamic, significant thirty day period which the Bible talks about. It is what I call the second coming procession.

The second coming is not just one event. There are many events in the whole second coming procession. There are three stages to it. You can define this in different ways. You could use different terminology.

First Jesus comes across the entire earth in the sky and every eye will see Him. He won't appear for one second over in the Middle East and everybody in California will see Him. No, He will go over every place of the earth and every eye will see Him. He will cross the sky and not in one second. The people in the Middle East and the people on the west coast cannot see a man in the same second.

I have talked with people about that before and they have kind of thought maybe that the earth will go flat for one second: everybody will see Him, then everyone will have seen Him. No, He is going to go across the entire globe. Every eye will see Him. Those who are not believers will mourn. They will see Him enough to actually feel the impact and say, "Oh no!" So He is not going a million miles an hour. He is going slowly enough for them to know what is going on.

## **JESUS WILL MARCH THROUGH THE LAND TO JERUSALEM**

In the second part of the second coming procession, Jesus marches up through the land. We know it is through the land of Jordan next to Israel. We do not know where the touch down point is, but we know He ends up at the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is not where He initially touches down. That is where He ends up.

He marches up through the land of Jordan. It is not clear where the touch down point will be. I have a theory, but theories are not that reliable.

Stage three, He marches on through the land to the city of Jerusalem. That is when He touches the Mount of Olives and it splits. That is where He is received as the King of glory—Psalm 24—“Who is this King of glory? Open up the gates, He is the King, mighty in battle.”

He has just defeated the Antichrist and the nation of Israel receives Him as King and He becomes King over all the nations in Jerusalem. This is a big topic, but there is actually a lot on it in the Scriptures. It does not say thirty days a lot, but the thirty days is clear from the numbers the angels gave Daniel and John.

## **THE STORY LINE IS ON PAUSE**

The second coming has happened and the nations are angry. Now the angel is going to give an explanation—the angelic explanation, the parenthesis. In other words, the storyline is now going to be put on pause. It is as if the angel is saying, “John, how are you doing with what you just saw?”

It is as if John is saying, “That was pretty intense. All the governments of the earth are taken over and all the nations are mad. Why is something this dramatic necessary and what is going to happen to us in the process?”

Again the story line is on pause and they are having a heart to heart talk. At the end of this parenthesis, the story line is going to be taken back up again with the seven bowls of wrath. In this angelic explanation to John, in this parenthesis, the angel describes why it is mandatory that all the governments of the nations are replaced immediately.

## **ALL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE REPLACED**

Paragraph B. He is going to show the magnitude of the attack of the governmental powers, the present governmental structures: how much they hate Jesus, how much they hate the saints, and how much they hate God’s plan, as well as the power they have to resist Jesus. That is what the angel is going to explain to John. This worldwide government is so hostile to God, that they must be removed off the planet.

It is as if John says, “Well, what are they going to do to us?”

“They are going to attack you, but God is going to help you in a dynamic way.”

That is what is happening in this angelic explanation, this parenthesis, this pause in the story line, this heart to heart talk between John and the angel.

### **A FIERCE WAR**

Paragraph C. In this parenthetical section, we see a fierce war going on. The fierce war gives us the rationale for why the governments need to be replaced. They are not kind of replaced, they are all totally replaced, except where there might be some righteousness. There may be some nations that have some righteousness in various parts, but as a rule, all the nations of the earth are going in the wrong direction.

This does not mean that there will not be righteousness emerging in various places in the earth. With prayer, fasting, and proclamation, there can be breakthroughs in the nations, but for the most part, the nations will be hostile against Jesus.

### **A WAR IN THE HEAVENS**

Paragraph C. There is a fierce war. The angel says—number one—that the war starts in heaven. Satan and Michael the archangel wage a great war and Satan is thrown to the earth. Do you know that the day is coming when Satan and billions of his angels, who are in the heavenly places, will actually be confined to the earth and they will be angry? They will be angry like the nations will be angry.

So we have angry demons on the earth and angry leaders in governmental positions all over the earth. And we have a zealous God, anointing His church in intercession, proclamation, and good works to upset the entire thing and turn history around.

### **THE ANTICHRIST’S WAR ON THE SAINTS**

Revelation 12 is Satan’s war in the heavenlies with Michael the archangel. Revelation 13 is the Antichrist’s war on the earth with the saints. The Antichrist wants to rule all the nations. He doesn’t want Jesus to rule the nations. He wants to rule them. So Revelation 12-13 is pretty intense.

Revelation 13 is the really negative chapter in the book of Revelation. When people say, “Oh no,” they mostly mean Revelation 13, because Satan’s intensity against us will be real, but the power we have to loose the judgment of God on the Antichrist is far superior.

Most of the book of Revelation is about the Praying Church loosing the heavenly arsenal upon the resources of the Antichrist, but in this one chapter we see the rage, and we see the strategy of Satan coming against the church through the Antichrist and the false prophet.

After two negative chapters, Revelation 14 is a very positive one. John receives seven visions and the angel is in essence telling John, “John, God is going to help you massively.”

So praise God for Revelation 14. You want to know Revelation 14. Well, you want to know Revelation 13 too. You want to know the intensity against us and the measure of anointing we will have to withstand the intense rage of the Antichrist against us.

### **THE SYMBOLS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

Paragraph D. The book of Revelation has seven main symbols. There are a couple of smaller ones of secondary importance, but seven main ones. The Bible makes clear what they are. They are quite simple and they are not confusing to grasp. When I talk to people they say, “Oh, the symbols, the horns, and the beasts, and oh, no! Throw that away.”

You can get it. As a matter of fact, you can get it in three minutes. Tell the guy next to you, “Hey, I can get these symbols.” There you go. Take it up a notch. “I can figure it out in three minutes.”

The Bible makes it clear what they are. All seven of these symbols are in this particular section, in Revelation 12–14. All seven of them are right there.

The dragon is always Satan. The first beast is always the Antichrist. Another beast is the false prophet. He is only called another beast once. There is a particular reason, but we are not going to go into that. Every other time he is called the false prophet.

### **SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS**

The seven heads are the seven empires through history that persecuted Israel. Why are those seven empires important? Because the strengths of those seven historic empires are going to reemerge again under the leadership of the Antichrist. The most powerful wickedness of those nations—their strengths in unrighteousness, if you will—will reemerge in those parts of the earth. That is what we need to know.

We are standing before a true adversary. The Captain of the Hosts is far more powerful, but the war will be intense. I have heard people say, “Oh, the Antichrist, do not worry about it.”

Many, many believers will die. Not most believers, but many. The Antichrist will be destroyed, but it really will be an intense three and a half years. He has the sum of the wickedness—of the bad qualities—of all these seven empires which hated Israel through history.

The ten horns speak of ten nations which come together and bring all their money and all their military clout under the Antichrist.

So the Antichrist will have the strengths of these seven historic empires, and he will control ten powerful nations, which will all unify their money and their armies to overthrow the people of God.

## **THE COMING ESCHATOLOGICAL REVOLUTION**

We read Revelation 13 and we say, “This is a real battle.”

The Lord says, “No problem, the Praying Church will take him out. They will take out the adversary and Jesus will come when He hears the cries of the Spirit and the Bride, ‘Come Lord Jesus!’”

He will come, but the battle is real. It is a real revolution, it is an eschatological revolution. It is not just a revolution of a nation. It is history shifting to the age to come.

We will have resurrected, physical, material bodies. We will not be ghost-like in existence. We will have physical, material, resurrected bodies which are supernatural. We will be on the earth and we will live through it all. We will make a dynamic contribution to this revolution. There is no revolution like it in history. It is far beyond the French Revolution and any revolution in history.

It will be an eschatological revolution which will shift history to the age to come. There will be real blood, real conflict, real deaths, real miracles, and real decisions which will really matter. And the governments will all be changed.

Beloved, I believe that there are people in this room today who will see the fullness of this in their lifetime. The most dramatic hour of human history is before us. Most of the Church is completely disconnected from this action plan given in the Word of God and in the book of Revelation, but God is raising up forerunners who will have clarity and they will know how to respond and prepare the church. I believe that some of these forerunners are in this room in these chairs right now.

## **SATAN WILL BE CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH**

Now let’s go to the war in the heavens. It is Satan against Michael the archangel. This war is in the future. This has not happened. Some commentators say that this happened at the cross. No, Satan is cast down to the earth, to never, ever again be in the heavenly places—which is a superior place and position of warfare.

When he is cast down to the earth, he does not like it, because he is limited. And he puts all of his energy into the false prophet and the Antichrist. Maybe that is not the right way to say it—all of his energy. He invests the best of his resources in them, as he raises up an evil empire. Their goal is to take over the nations, but Jesus will take over the nations.

They want to take over the nations; not just influence them, but govern them entirely as Jesus will in the Millennium.

### **A WAR FUELED BY INTERCESSION**

Revelation 12:7, “War broke out in heaven.” This is yet future. This will happen at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. I believe that the war which will happen in the heavens between Michael and Satan is going to be fueled by the intercession on the earth, just like Michael fought the demons in Daniel 10, when Daniel prayed and fasted. In Daniel 10, he is on the earth fasting and praying and Michael is striking principalities and powers based on Daniel’s prayer.

This war will be no different. The balance of it will be in the hands of the intercessors on the earth. This will be such an anointed season of intercession that not only are principalities and powers pushed out of their place—like in Daniel 10, where the angels connect with Daniel—but they will all be dislodged and driven to the earth against their will.

They will be so angry. They will take it out on the people of God, but the people of God will have angelic help, power, anointing and authority in prayer.

Verse 7 (paraphrased): “War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon”—the devil, Satan—“and the dragon and his demons fought back.” Verse 8: “But they did not prevail”—the demons did not prevail—“nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.” They were no longer in the heavenly places, like they are right now. In Ephesians 6 it says that they are in the heavenly places. That is a superior position of advantage for war.

Verse 9 (paraphrased): So the dragon—the dragon is the devil. The Bible tells us what all these symbols mean—he was cast to the earth and billions of demons were cast to the earth with him.” There will be more demonized people in the final three and half years than we can imagine.

### **DEMONS WILL BE CONFINED TO THE EARTH**

Revelation 9:21 says that the earth will be filled with sorcery. These demons, who are now in heavenly places, will be confined to the earth. It is going to get far worse for them, because after those three and a half years, they are going to be confined to prison.

At the moment they are in heavenly places with a certain amount of freedom to move. They will be confined to the earth and their liberties will be constricted, so their rage will be intense. After that they will be cast into prison and the lake of fire.

Verse 12: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth...for the devil has come down to you having great wrath.” That word wrath means anger. The NIV uses the word fury.

Why does the devil have great wrath? Because he knows he only has three and half years left before he goes to prison.

### **SATAN HATES HIS OWN PEOPLE**

Interestingly, he is coming against the saints, but he is actually coming against his own people.

Satan hates his own loyal servants. He hates people and he hates demons. Satan does not have any kindness towards demons or humans, believers or unbelievers.

Verse 13: “The dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth”—he is so filled with arrogance, my guess is that he is saying, “It is not going to happen.”

The demons around him are saying, “What do you think about that?”

“It is not going to happen. It is not going to happen. God is a liar. It is not going to happen. The Bible is not true.”

He is so filled with arrogance. He is probably thinking in his heart that he can overcome. Well, he is not going to. He will persecute the woman, which is the remnant of Israel. Verse 17, the devil will be so enraged. He has wrath in verse 12 and rage in verse 17. He is so angry with Israel. You can see his anger with Israel already.

### **SATAN WILL MAKE WAR ON THE CHURCH**

He will go and make war with the Gentile believers. He will openly make war on the church. He will do everything in his power to exterminate the church, but He will not succeed.

There will be more martyrs than any time in history, but there will also be more converts than any time in history. Most of the saints will not die—a huge number will, but most will not. It will be the greatest revival in history.

Paragraph D. Satan wants to overcome the church, but he wants to overcome us first with fear, because if he can get a person filled with fear, they will open the door to compromise. People sin more because of fear.

In this hour people say, “What if I lose out?” They will lose out on some things in the natural. Things will be very different for that final three and a half years. That is why the church must be ready and in a place of understanding, purity, faith, and power.

### **FEAR WILL BE THE BIGGEST ENEMY**

Jesus said in Luke 21:26, “Men’s hearts will fail from fear.” Fear will cover the earth, but the Body of Christ need not be fearful if they eat the Word of God now. They will have understanding and boldness in their spirit. My opinion is that we are several decades away from this—two, three, four, maybe more, maybe less.

It is not even on the mind of the Body of Christ, but it is on the mind of the Holy Spirit to raise up forerunners. It takes more than a year or two for a forerunner to be raised up.

Though this is not being emphasized universally, the Holy Spirit is emphasizing God's action plan to forerunners right now, in order for them to grasp it and get themselves lined up with God, so they will be able to be deliverers and not just need someone to deliver them.

Fear will be the biggest enemy, even in the church. Many in the church—not most, but it will be millions—will fall away from the Lord because of fear. Fear will be real, but beloved, we do not even need to go there. If we fill ourselves with the Word of God, fear cannot touch us.

### **THE NEED FOR A DELIVERER WILL MAKE SENSE**

Roman numeral V. Now we are moving to Revelation 13. Now it is going from the war in the heavens between Satan and Michael, to the war on the earth between the Antichrist and the saints.

The angel is changing the scene. He is telling John in essence, “Do you now understand why these governments have to be overthrown and driven off the earth?”

Because the governments of the earth will be worshipping the Antichrist. They will have the same spirit he has. They will do the same deeds, they will have the same hatred towards Jesus, the church, and the purpose of God as he has, and they have a free will. They will not repent. They have to be driven off the planet.

I regularly hear, “I do not like all this.” I appreciate that. “I do not want all this conflict.” I tell you if a man, many more times powerful than Adolph Hitler, was killing your loved ones, you would want someone to confront him.

The reason many believers do not have much of a stomach for this now is because they do not have an oppressor from whom they need to be delivered. Maybe there is a bad relationship or family situation or another situation where there is real oppression. I am not talking about that, but I appreciate that, I really do—the weight of that kind of thing.

There isn't an oppressor like Adolph Hitler times ten or times 100, oppressing our nation and killing people indiscriminately, but when the oppressor gets raised up, the need for a deliverer will make a whole lot more sense.

### **GOD WILL NOT OVERRIDE THEIR FREE WILL**

In a time of peace, it all seems just like a whole lot of blood and gore that isn't necessary.

“Lord, can't You figure out another way?”

The Lord might say, “No, I gave them a free will and they are really exercising it. I will not take away their free will. I will not. They will not submit to Me. As a matter of fact, they won't decrease in evil, they will increase. The momentum is mounting up in significant proportions—the evil, the depth of evil, and the amount of people buying into it. They will not repent.”

“Well, make them repent.”

“No, I will honor their free will, but I will confront them.”

“Could You not just wave Your hand and have them disappear?”

“No, I am going to confront them in real flesh and blood terms in real history through the Praying Church.”

### **FORERUNNERS ARE BEING RAISED UP**

I have heard all kinds of different emotions. People would say, “I wish this would not happen.”

I say, “We could wish A or B, but at the end of the day, you do not get to vote on the generation in which you live and in what hour on the divine calendar you are. You trust the Lord’s wisdom that you were born for such a time as this.”

I believe—it is my conviction—that many of you will actually see the completion of this in your lifetime. Again, it is the hour when the forerunners are being raised up. Let the birth pangs intensify, and a whole lot more people are going to be paying attention to these kinds of ideas. It won’t be the first time the forerunners will be paying attention, because God is raising up the forerunners now, even in these decades, to get them ready for the eschatological shift of human history.

### **A CONFLICT OF TWO WORSHIP MOVEMENTS**

Revelation 13 is about the Antichrist. The devil is going to continue to war. He says in effect, “I am not in the heavenlies, but I will war through two men.” It says in Revelation 13:2 that Satan gave the Antichrist his power, his throne, and great authority. He will give his power and authority to one man and his helper, the false prophet.

Verse 4 (paraphrased), “The nations worshipped Satan.” The greatest worship movement of darkness is just ahead, but there is a greater worship movement of light. At the end of the day the end-time conflict is a conflict of two houses of prayer. It is about two worship movements, and the King of the one which wins will govern the earth forever. In the balance of history are two houses of prayer in collision.

Verse 4 (paraphrased), “They will worship Satan and they will worship the Antichrist.” The nations will be awestruck and say, “Who is like the beast? There is no man more powerful, more wise, more dynamic, and more charismatic. There is nobody who can bring unity to the nations. Nobody is as good as him” (v. 4, paraphrased).

Then they will say the next statement. Not only is he good, but “Who can stand against him and defeat him” (v. 4 paraphrased)? The answer is the Praying Church. We have the answer as to

who can make war with him: we can, under the authority of Jesus and according to the script—the action plan is the book of Revelation.

### **THE PRIVILEGE OF MARTYRDOM**

Verse 7 (paraphrased), “It was granted to the Antichrist to make war with the saints and to actually overcome them”—physically. He cannot overcome us spiritually, but he can overcome us physically. This is talking about martyrdom. Again, it will not be the majority of the saints, but it will be a substantial number. There will be no number like it in history. It will be the highest number of martyrs ever.

It will be your greatest honor if the Lord chooses you to be a martyr. I have told the Lord, “I want to be a martyr. I want to give my life for Your cause.” I am not going to do anything stupid, but this is not the sort of thing where you are saying, “I hope not.” You say, “Lord, if I am worthy I am available to you.” It will be the greatest privilege in your life to be able to give your life for Him.

The question in verse 4 is, “Who can make war with the Antichrist?” The answer is, “We can.” The Antichrist says, “OK” (v.7, paraphrased). He knows who his real adversary is: it is the Praying Church.

Paragraph D. The false prophet is the worldwide religious leader who is supporting this worldwide king. The Antichrist is the political and military leader. The false prophet is the religious leader. Politics, the military, and religion go together in the Antichrist kingdom.

### **THREE STRATEGIES**

Paragraph E. In this passage—Revelation 13:11–18—John gives us the false prophet’s three main strategies. He has three huge strategies and we have insight into them.

I don’t think the devil likes us to know, that by the Spirit of God we know his primary strategies for coming against us—the ones he is going to use. This is the best plan Satan could come up with. His plan is quite unusual, but these are the best ideas he could come up with. He has been thinking about this for ages.

There is one point in time where the collision of the two kingdoms becomes fully manifest in the natural. The two kingdoms have been in collision from before the foundation of the earth, but there is only one generation where the war becomes public and manifest in the natural for all to see. It will be fully manifest in one hour of history. That is why it is an eschatological revolution. History is shifted when the battle becomes physical and out in the open for all to see.

There will be no guessing that it is happening. Right now people say, “It is kind of bad. It is not so bad. It used to be bad. It is better. It is worse.” In that hour there will be no two opinions. Everybody will know the war is on in full force and fierceness.

### **STRATEGY NUMBER ONE**

Paragraph E. The first strategy John sees. The reason the angel tells John this, is to let us know the fierceness of the conflict and why it is necessary. The chronological section explains why Jesus needs to move the governments of the earth. Because some, even Christians, might think, “This is too extreme and this is not fair.”

Jesus would say, “You do not get the nature and the gravity of what is going to unfold in that time in history.”

The first strategy. The false prophet will make demonically empowered speeches which will be confirmed by great signs and wonders. He will speak and his speaking will move the masses. They will be moved deeply. They will be moved intellectually and emotionally. They will say, “Amazing ideas and, wow, my heart is connected to what you are saying.” Signs and wonders will back it up. That is huge.

### **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**

Strategy number two. The false prophet will promote the abomination of desolation. Do not be tripped by that term. The abomination of desolation is the worldwide worship system. Let me break it down. It is an abomination which the Antichrist commits. The abomination is that he claims to be God, that is the abomination. He demands the whole world to honor him as God. That is the second part of the abomination. The third part is that much of the world says yes.

Abomination number one: “I am God.” Men have said that before. Abomination number two: “I am going to make the whole world acknowledge it and I have the most powerful military machine in history to enforce it.” That is an abominable thing to do. Abomination number three: billions will say, “Yes, we are in.” That is an abomination. That is it. It is an abomination that leads to desolation.

What is the desolation? The desolation is that God will answer it with judgment and desolate the Antichrist empire. He will cause his empire to be desolate because of the abomination.

### **A STATUE OF THE ANTICHRIST**

In one sentence, the abomination is a worship movement, it is a worldwide worship movement and here is how it works. Most of you know this, it is quite straightforward: the false prophet makes a statue—or a statue is made, let’s put it that way—of the Antichrist. It is an idol, a statue, an image, and the false prophet has the ability, by demonic power, to cause that statue to breathe or to appear to breathe.

It says “breath,” but when you read it, you think, “What?” I said, “Lord, didn’t John mean to say that it appeared to breathe?” I have it firmly in my mind, “Do not mess with the book of Revelation.” So I am giving you both, just to get myself covered here. This image breathes or it appears to breathe. It will be clear in that day what it is. Either way, the nations will buy into it.

The image will speak and give commands. My guess is that the image will give prophecies which will be very convincing. The image will speak the secrets of men's hearts. That is a guess. This image will be so powerful that the nations will buy into it. That is the abomination of desolation.

Paul talks about it here in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4. He talks about the son of perdition, who is the Antichrist. Verse 4 (paraphrased), “He sits as God in the temple”—in the Jerusalem temple, which means that the physical temple is going to be rebuilt. He will sit in the holy of holies and say, “I am God”—this has nothing to do with Jesus—“I am God and I demand that you worship me as God.”

### **THE MARK OF THE BEAST**

Paragraph three. The next strategy is an economic strategy. He is going to employ an economic system where everybody has to declare their loyalty to the Antichrist openly with a mark on the hand or the forehead. They have to declare it openly in order to have the necessities of life, but for the Praying Church God will do miracles like He did through Moses: water will come out of a rock, food will be multiplied, and prison doors will be opened. Some will die and some will be released. There will be tremendous supernatural activity going on in the Body of Christ.

Those are the three basic strategies. This man is going to make public speeches with signs and wonders to convince people. He is going to have a worship movement and at the center of it will be a talking, breathing statue with power. Number three, there will be an economic system which will back up the worship system and force worldwide mandatory worship. Those who don't submit to this system, won't be able to buy food.

You have to declare your loyalty publicly. It cannot be a secret thing of the heart. When everybody sees you, they will know if you are in or out. One person cannot pretend one way and go another way.

### **FIGHT FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN YOUR NATION**

Satan has thought this thing through for ages. He is saying, “This is the best I can come up with.” It is as if the Lord says, “It will not be sufficient to overthrow the nations and to take them over in a permanent way, even though you may have a momentary victory in a lot of nations.”

I do not believe he will take over all the nations. We are contending for America, for his influence not to have the place of dominance. In whatever place of the earth you are, that is the area for you to contend for righteousness to break out.

Even though the Antichrist will take over nations, he will not take over every nation entirely. There will be nations he does not conquer. He does not get them all. His worship movement will be in every nation, he will have economic outlets in every nation, but he will not conquer every nation. At the end there will be nations resisting him.

Whatever nation you are in, I believe it is your mandate—unless God tells you otherwise directly—to fight for righteousness to emerge and evil to be driven out of that geographic area.

We have gone through the war in the spirit—Revelation 12—and the war on the earth—Revelation 13. Now John is saying, “OK, I see why the governments need to be replaced, but how about us?”

### **SEVEN VISIONS**

Now John receives seven visions—Roman numeral VI. We are in Revelation 14, the next angelic explanation, the next parenthesis. We are still in a parenthesis, the story line is still on pause right now. After this, the story line is going to be taken off pause in Revelation 15–16 and the events on the earth are going to unfold again in sequential order.

The seven messages have this message in them—paragraph A. Jesus is saying in effect, “I am going to help you”—number one and number two—“the consequences are real and the consequences are eternal. The choices you make will determine your eternal destiny.” That brings the seriousness up a whole different notch. It is as if Jesus is saying, “I promise you, I will reward you if you are faithful, and I promise you, I will help you in the process. I will help you through the process and I will reward you forever if you say yes.”

Paragraph C. There are seven visions, but it is broken down into three specific sections. The first section has one vision, the second has four visions, and the third has two visions. There are three distinct sections, a total of seven visions.

### **JESUS WILL STAND ON MOUNT ZION**

Section number one, Jesus will stand on mount Zion. This is physical mount Zion on the earth, this is not mount Zion in heaven. There is a heavenly mount Zion, but this is on the earth. Obviously, some commentators will not agree with this, but it is the straightforward interpretation of the book. There are 144,000 prophetic singers and somewhere in the unfolding of the Tribulation, Jesus will stand on the mountain with them.

You do not know what the timing of these parenthetical sections is. It could be any time in those final years. Jesus gathers them on the mountain. They have their intense worship and prayer training conference. How would you like to be there?

Now the precedent for this event is in the Word. After the resurrection Jesus appeared to the apostles in Acts 1 for forty days and spoke the word to them. They had physical bodies. Jesus appears and teaches them for forty days. Then we have the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus appears and opens the Bible. Can you imagine Jesus teaching about Jesus in the Bible? It says that their hearts burned within them. The Lord visits Paul in the Arabian desert in Galatians 1, and teaches him the Bible. And Moses gets face to face instruction on the Bible, when he is on the mountain.

### **THE 144,000 PROPHETIC SINGERS**

This event with the 144,000 will surpass any of those precedents, because at the end of the age there is going to be a far greater manifestation of glory than anytime in history. Jesus will actually meet them and He will commission them, anoint them, and teach them. The prophetic singers will sing a new song—verse 3—which they learn in heavenly visitations. There will be heavenly encounters with angels and they will learn new songs. They will sing them and prophesy them, they will sing oracles and shift what is happening on the earth when they sing the new songs.

These very songs—the new songs—are also sung in Isaiah 42 by the prayer movement around the earth. Isaiah 42 is my favorite chapter about the second coming. It describes the singers around the earth singing the new songs from the mountains to the islands to the coastlands, and Jesus returns for this worldwide new song prayer and worship movement. He appears in the sky as a mighty man of war.

I believe that the 144,000 prophetic singers are connected with the worldwide singers of Isaiah 42. There is a connection between them.

Revelation 14:4. These singers are highly dedicated to the Lord. This passage is misunderstood. Verse 4, “These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.”

Some people read this as though they are defiled if they are married. That is not what this is talking about. This is talking about two different things. There will be so much immorality, but these young men will have zero connection with pornography or anything immoral that is going on in the earth. They will have no defilement in their lives at all, because of their dedication. And they will be celibate, but that is a separate point. The angel is not saying that you are defiled if you are married. The culture will be rife with immorality, but they won't go there.

### **THE CALL TO CELIBACY**

Now the second thing is that they are celibates in terms of their own personal and domestic life. I believe the Holy Spirit is going to anoint and put dignity on the calling to celibacy like no time in history.

These 144,000 will be the most powerful group of prophetic singers on the earth in history. The only prophets more powerful will be the two witnesses and Elijah—if he is not one of them.

These prophetic singers sing the power of God and they are dedicated. They are celibate and the Lord honors and esteems it. The Lord is going to be calling many people to be celibate; I do not say most, but many. I think it will be common to hear of the glory and the dignity of the call to celibacy.

I just realized that a whole bunch of folks got heart burn. You instantly thought, “What about me?” Let’s not go there right now. Let’s stay with the passage. You will have plenty of time to think about that.

### **THEY FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES**

The next thing is that they will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. That is a massive statement. This doesn’t mean they follow behind Him, that they walk wherever He walks. Certainly there is an element of that. It means that they will obey anything He says no matter what it costs them.

Verse 5, “ And in their mouth was found no deceit.” It does not mean that they do not lie on their taxes. It means that there is no darkness in their speech. They have no compromise in their life anywhere.

There are five things. They are highly dedicated. God is raising up a caliber of young people in the worship movement beyond the 144,000. The 144,000 are real young men. My assumption is that the majority, if not all of them, are young men highly dedicated to Jesus, on fire for Jesus, as serious as they can be about the kingdom of God. In the midst of a world of corruption, they will be an inspiration with their Nazarite abandonment to God with no looking back and no regrets.

There are four visions. These are prophetic proclamations. Here is the concept: the prayer movement will sing these four proclamations, the 144,000 will be singing them, as will the Isaiah 42 singers of the earth. They will be singing these four proclamations. The preachers will preach them, the singers will sing them. These four will be loosed through intercession.

The power of these messages will bring conviction, and signs and wonders will back up these four messages. We want to know those messages now.

### **FOUR MESSAGES**

Message number one, the Gospel is going to succeed in all nations. There are already songs coming out with that theme. The worship movement will sing them. It is going to really escalate.

Number two, the earthly defeat of the seductions of immoral Babylon. The system is going down. We do not have to look for Bible verses on grace which will make us feel good about dipping into the seduction of Babylon. We are going to proclaim with boldness, “Babylon is going down, it is a corrupt system, it is broken, and it will go down.” The singers will sing this.

The 144,000 and the Isaiah 42 singers will be singing these new songs, and singers across the earth will be declaring these things. And there will be powerful signs and wonders backing it up. There will be strength coming to people’s spirit when these declarations are going forth.

Number three, the eternal judgment of everyone who worships the Antichrist. People do not like the judgment themes, but the singers will be bold about it and there will be power on the songs

and the proclamation. These songs will cause the terror of the Lord to fill the earth—these songs will.

Number four, God will reward the faithful eternally. There will be songs and proclamations about this.

Again, signs and wonders will back this up. These four themes will be prophesied and released by prayer. They will have an impact on the atmosphere of the planet. Both unbelievers and believers will be hit hard with the power of these declarations.

### **TWO GREAT HARVESTS**

The final sections. There will be two great harvests. There will be a harvest of souls and there will be a harvest of sin. Sin will become ripe, not just the kingdom. The judgment—there will be a harvest of judgment. It will be loosed even by the Praying Church.

These seven visions in Revelation 14 will all be proclaimed by the 144,000 prophetic singers. The truths of Revelation 14 will be part of the arsenal of our war against the Antichrist in Revelation 13. Amen.