Beast and False Prophet; The 144,000; Part 2
By Charles Feinberg

Now in the next two verses 6 and 7, we have the everlasting gospel I saw another angel fly in the mist of heaven, the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth to every nation, kindred, and tongue and people saying with a loud voice fear God give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come, and worship him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters. The everlasting gospel, that's not our gospel. Of course all good news indicates God's grace; our gospel is for the purpose of gathering the church to heaven.

Now here's another good news. The gospel that the angel announces is God's judgment of the earth. You say what is that good news? It's proclaimed by creation. What’s proclaimed by creation the fact that God is creator and ruler overall. But we have in romans 1:20 and psalm 19:1-6 this gospel proclaims that God is supreme, that he's sovereign, blessing only in obedience to his will. Of course it has the other side of it too just as the gospel of grace has it if you don’t obey it there's judgment. Its everlasting gospel, it's remained through the ages. There’s the call that comes from the worship of the beast, the creature to the worship of God, the everlasting blessed glorious creator. So he says the hour of the judgment is come and worship him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters and you will escape the judgment.

Verse 8 announces the fall of Babylon [inaudible] that great city because you made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. This fall is seen by way of anticipation. It’s the first mention of Babylon in the book of revelation. You shall be hearing more about that wicked,
corrupt system later. It’s a colossal system of spiritual adultery, wickedness, and corruption, it’s in line with jezebel, that we saw earlier among the churches of revelation 2 and 3. She enticed and lured the other nations of the earth and did godless practices and idolatry. Babylon has in the past done that. It will in the future. The particulars of the fall of Babylon we’ll be seeing in chapter 17 and 18.

In verses 9, 10, and 11, we have God's wrath upon the worshippers of the beast. And the third angel followed them saying with a loud voice if any man worshipped the beast in his image and received his mark on his forehead or on his hand the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation. and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the holy lamb, and the smoke of their torment ascended up forever and ever and they have no rest day nor night who worshipped the beast in his image and whosoever receiveth the mark in his name and verse 12 should go here also here is the patience of the saints. Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Verses 9-11 indicates God wrath, the wrath of God on the worshippers of the beast. In verse 10 there stated his unmixed wrath. Its judgment unmixed. Unmixed with mercy. The fire and brimstone are symbols of unspeakable sorrow and anguish and its forever, ever. Oh some may try to make a certain limitation but notice it is forever without end. It is the same word used for the existence of God, the same word for the devil's doom. Those that trust in the power and the authority of the beast will find it will not stand them in good stead in that hour. Never trust anyone, friend, in matters of eternal
importance. Never trust anyone except the Lord Jesus Christ, and he, and he alone, will make eternity sure for you.

Now we come to deal with the blessed dead and verse 12 is a bit of a connecting verse because it mentions the patience of the saints, the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. verse 13 and I heard a voice of heaven saying unto me right blessed are the dead who die in the lord from henceforth, the ace of the spirit that they may rest from their labors and the works do follow them. We are dealing now with the blessed dead. Revelation 14:12-13 here are the faith and the patience of the Jewish remnant who are going to be tested just as we have it in revelation 13 and verse 10. Their faith and their patience both will be severely tested. And then the word comes from heaven blessed are the dead who die in the lord from henceforth. Now we understand friends of course that it’s always blessed to die in Christ, and that's why Godly ministers will use this passage for funerals of believers now. I've done it myself and I believe that it has here a binding an eternal principle that blessed are the dead that know the lord, and they do rest from their labors and their works do follow them. You see there are two ways to die no more and no less. When one dies he either dies in Christ or he dies in his sins. To die in sins to die in Adam means an eternity of woe, perdition and loss. How does one do that? Well if one is unsaved he just goes on the way he is. Rejecting, neglecting, overlooking, spurning the grace of the lord Jesus Christ and that die in Adam not having received Christ’s dies in his sins. God forbid. The [inaudible] among the number that are listening to my voice. Should die in sins because I never trusted Christ. Christ said if you believe not that I am, you shall die in your sins. But no one needs to die that way. The good news is that those who trust in the lord those who
will trust him fall asleep in Christ. A peculiar blessing however to die in the lord in that time for the blessedness to be entered upon the reign of Christ must be nearer than ever before. God's program will be farther on the way to fulfillment and the final consummation than ever before. also to die will be better than to live for they will be spared the future portion of the awful woes of the great tribulation period their alternative will be either to worship the beast to live or resist him and be killed to die in the lord. God said it's more blessed to die at this particular time in history that they may rest from their labors. They rest from their weary labors and their works follow with them. God will take note of their faithful works. He will not overlook, he will not discount any faithful work. In verses 14-16 we have the harvest of the earth. and I looked and behold a white cloud and upon the cloud one sat like the son of man having on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle and another angel came out of the temple and crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud thrust in the sickle and reap, for the time has come for thee to reap for the harvest of the earth is ripe and he that Satan the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped and another angel came out of the temple which was in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. and another angel came out from the altar who had power over fire and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle saying thrust in thy sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth for her grapes are fully ripe and the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city and blood came out of the winepress. Even unto the horse bridles by the space of a one thousand and six hundred furlongs, the harvest of the earth.
The passage winds up speaking of two judgmental scenes. You’ll see there two distinct ones. One the harvest the other the winepress. Now this particular harvest judgment is before the millennium. We verily believe this is the judgement spoken of in Matthew 25. The judgment of the end of Israel’s age, the end of the age of the great tribulation. see Matthew 13:35 the cloud mentioned here symbolizes the divine presence as we often saw the [inaudible] the lord was received up into heaven with a cloud, he will come with clouds. again and again in scripture cloud is seen with reference to the manifested glory of God. now it’s Christ who sits now in judgment just as in Matthew 24:31. this is a judgmental scene. white cloud upon the cloud one sat like the son of man. and he's the one who has in his hand a sharp sickle. when the son of man comes and sits upon the throne of his glory, john 25:27 promises him that he has that judgment. all judgement is going to be committed into the hands of the son. why? as the son of man he knows the requirements of God. he knows the frailties of man but he also knows the marvelous requirements of God, the holy requirements of God, the righteous demands of God, and he also knows of the omnipotence of God and the grace of God to provide for man. now the crown indicates his royal dignity. he sends forth the sickle. I don't know understand it that he reaps personally. he superintends it. Matthew 13:39 in case the angels do the actual reaping, but he's the one that actually orders it. The harvest here is gathered for blessing. The judgment is the portion of the tears that are left. Vengeance is trodden in judgement. The harvest is a discriminating judgment then, separating the weak from the tears. The vengeance appears to be an unsparing judgement.
In verse 16 we read of the whole transaction summarized with one stroke he that sat on the cloud thrust in the sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped of a reaping of a coming day. A vengeance is an unsparing judgment, the harvest is a discriminating judgment. The whole transaction summarized although in actuality the judgment consists of several events and verse 16 sort of telescopes them together. We read that he that sat on the cloud casts his sickle upon the earth and the earth was reaped. The altar that’s mentioned next another angel came out of the temple that’s in heaven. He also having a sharp sickle, and then we read of an angel came out from the altar. The altar is the bronze altar with the fire. It’s the altar of judgment. The vine is apostate Israel. We have the figure of Israel under a vine in Isaiah 5:1 where the prophet Isaiah ministers and speaks a word. He says I want to sing a song to my well beloved concerning a vineyard and then Hosea 10:1 speaks of Israel as the vine.

Now the city mentioned in verse 20. We read the winepress was trodden outside the city. What city could this be? The city is the prominent city again and again in the book of the revelation and in the bible elsewhere. The city is Jerusalem. The treading happens without the city that is in the valley of Jehoshaphat. Now from Joel we have exactly the same testimony in the third chapter of Joel reads for behold in those days and in that time not in our days and our time but what time? When I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem. What’s God going to do? I will also gather all nations A-L-L, all nations and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, that is the area the valley of God's judging. The God's courtroom. God has a name for a place on earth that means his courtroom. He will judge them the nations there for my people and for my heritage Israel whom they have scattered among the nations and parted my
land. Yes the nations gathered together did part the land. They divided God's land the holy land, the land of Palestine and there's been agony ever since. All that area belongs to Israel according to the promise to Abraham from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates.

Now notice this. What is this treading? Joel 3:9-14 proclaim this among the nations, prepare war, wake up the mighty men let all the men of war drawn near, let them come up beat your [inaudible] the opposite of Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-3. Here it's not sorts into [inaudible] will beat your plow shares into sores and your [inaudible]. Remember the scrap drives of World War 2. Yes there's war in the offing than here. Let the weak say I am strong. Assemble yourselves and come all you nations. Gather yourselves together roundabout there because thy mighty ones to come down oh lord says Joel in prayer. Let the nations be wakened come up to the valley of Jehosephat for there will I sit to judge all the nations roundabout. Now watch this, put in the sickle. Revelation 14 has a sickle for the harvest is ripe. Come get down for the press is full. Here is the vintage. The vats overflow for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision.

I know some use this for evangelistic invitation but that is a misuse of this passage. You have plenty of invitations in the New Testament: come unto me you all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Believe on the lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved even in job acquaint thyself with them and be in peace thereby good should come unto thee. Oh why will you die? Choose you this day who you will serve. There are many good passages that you could use. You don't have to use this one. There's multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision,
which one? The valley of Jehoshaphat where God's going to do the deciding on the nations for the day of the lord is near in the valley of decision. Yes this marks the downfall revelation 14. The beast and the antichrist and their forces of apostate Israel, of Gog and Magog [sp?], of Ezekiel 38 and 39, and of the king of the north. The war of Armageddon in chapter 16 is going to be part of this vintage judgment. What colossal events are yet ahead of us friend. God only knows. We have a picture of it also in Isaiah 63 and you'll find it mentioned again in revelation the 19th chapter what the treading out of the winepress. Here you have vintage again. Some folks say well they can’t stand that picture. Well just think about how it breaks the heart of God that he has to do this to creatures of his own that he loves. Isaiah 63 who is this that commeth to me that will die [inaudible] in his apparel traveling in the greatness of his strength, I who speak in righteousness. Why the prophet asks, why art thou [inaudible] in thy garments like him who treadeth in the wine fat? I've trodden the winepress the answer comes I've trodden the winepress alone and of the people there was none with me for I will tread them in my anger and trample them in my future and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments and I shall stain my [inaudible] for the day of vengeance is in my heart that God has not forgotten his own the year of my redeemed is come.

We have a picture of what we have here in revelation 14 in Isaiah 63. His judgment then is stated under the figure of a winepress and that’s what you have in that great song. My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the lord. He’s treading out that winepress. The blood reaches from the winepress we read even to the bridals of the horses. At 1600 fore longs the space of a 1600 fore longs, 1600 fore long that's about 200 miles in our reckoning. Now interestingly enough and not
accidentally either nor incidentally, but interestingly enough that is the distance from Dan to Beersheba. The whole length of the holy land, something that Armageddon is just going to be one skirmish. Actually in Revelation 16 it’s the war of the great day of God. It’s composed of a number of battles. There will be a battle in the north at Armageddon. There will be a tremendous conflict there in the valley of Jehoshaphat [sp?], in the south around Jerusalem. How can anyone today fight without taking into account the capital city. Remember in WW2 if the capital city of any nation in Europe or elsewhere capitulated, then it was over. If it was considered an open city that meant the enemy could come and take over the white flag of surrender was up. But if they defended the capital city where the seat of the government was unless it was in exile, if the city of the government was the capital city they'd fight to the death.

So here’s a tremendous conflict in the valley of Jehoshaphat [sp?] in the South in Jerusalem. And then there will be a conflict around Edom, southeast of Jerusalem as in Isaiah 63. The land in its entirety is meant, read again, Isaiah 63:1 those passages in Joel 3:11, 12, 14 and then Revelation 19:15. Oh friends how can we speak of these judgmental portions. How can we even study them without warning sinners? Sinners must be warned in the day of God's bountiful grace to prepare for the future by accepting Christ now as personal savior. You see it’s your wonderful privilege and mine. It’s your joy and mine to invite people not to think upon judgment. Unsaved ones we believers can think upon that in great length, and we also want to unbelievers to know there’s judgment ahead but we don't dwell on that for them. We dwell on the grace of God that delivers from judgment. Aren’t you glad that the word is still true? 2 Corinthians 6:2 now is the accepted time now is the day of salvation. we read in Genesis that when the flood was to come upon the
earth, God gave Noah all manner of instructions, directions, on how to build the ark, what he was to do about it, what he was to do by way of bringing in a life of the animals clean and unclean, and how life was to be preserved there and then we read not that God told Noah close the door to the ark. No you'll never find that in the bible. Some people think that’s the way it reads. It doesn't read that way. it reads and God closed the door after Noah because God will not allow any man thank the Lord, he will not allow any man to close the door of grace on a world condemned to judgment. He does that himself with a broken heart. These studies in the revelation are not meant merely, believe me, they are not meant merely to satisfy idle curiosity even to give some kind of mental exercise. We want spiritual exercise of the heart. On the part of believers also on the part of those that never trusted Christ. You see that makes the bible different than any other book, you study other books and the mind becomes expanded. There’s enlargement of the mind, but you study the bible there's enlargement of the heart because the spiritual exercise of the heart. the spirit of God wants to use this word with telltale force to tell all that the time is short and I have to as well as you have to keep reminding myself. You keep reminding yourself that the matter requires the greatest of urgency as in the book of ester the kings matter requireth haste. the decision is to be made on a personal basis and if there is someone listening who has never trusted Christ, this is the day and this is the hour, Christ will never be more willing, he will never be more able, he will never make better provision because he’s made the all sufficient provision for your sin and for mine. The decision is yours to make with all of its momentous consequences.

Now in the few remaining moments we’d like to just indicate something of what will be before us in the fifteen and sixteen chapter of the revelation. They deal with the third series of
septaneyuy [sp?] judgment of judgments of seven parts. The bowl judgements. Now I know in the authorizer version instead of bowls, for instance in revelation 15 and verse 7, we have vials, v-i-a-l-s, vials. Now the reason vials is not a good translation is because a vial today makes us think of a little container such as one would have in expensive perfume that one might buy at a great price but this is not what is in view here. These are bowls; they are large so that as in Zechariah 12 much can be poured out of the contents upon the earth. So the 15th and 16th chapters of the revelation deal with these bowl judgments. we've had the seal judgments beginning with revelation6, we've had trumpet judgments in the earlier section of the revelation where we even had finally we saw the last three, the fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpet judgments were called woe judgments, and those trumpet judgments began with the 8th chapter. It’s going to be in 15 and 16 that we have the bowl judgments.

Now as to time these all take place in the last half of the great tribulation period. What’s called in prophecy, as in Daniel, the latter time of the indignation. It’s where the final blow comes in for the final knockout blow as it were. The winding up of God's judgment on the earth. From the text the inference seems probable that they would transpire in a very brief period of time. They will be rapid, they will be severe, they will be tremendously devastating. Now revelation does deal repeatedly with judgment but not solely so for the final prospect as we come on to the end, thank God, will be bright. We’re going to have a grand finale, we are going to have a grand, great universal hallelujah chorus at the end, but the 7 bowls of God's wrath are prepared for in the 15th chapter of the revelation. In verse 1 we have the last plagues, we have another sign. The 2 signs up to this portion in chapter 12:1-3 the sign of the woman and that of the dragon. Now we come
to a 3rd sign in chapter 15:1 which consists of the 7 angels having 7 plagues, the last plagues for in them is finished the wrath of God. All of them were seen in heaven.

When indicates the finishing the wrath of God there is finality emphasized. That means the providential dealings and the judgements of Go brought to a consummation. Christ comes in personal judgment in chapter 19 at the end of the pouring out of these bowls of God's wrath. The Wrath of God is followed by the wrath of the lamb. For sake then of continuity we shall take up the beginning of chapter 15 and go on in our next study. Our God and our father how gracious thou art that in the midst of tremendous judgment so amply deserved by man. that in the midst of this kind of judgement, thou again and again indicate thy marvelous grace and lord this is a day when thou art pleading through thy servants, through pastors, through evangelist, through missionaries, through teachers, through literature, through the means of radio, even television, Lord so many many avenues are pleading with souls to trust thee and thou art still pleading as well with believers to become [inaudible] and strong and to be witnessing and to be sharing the truth of Christ with others, not to take this truth and to hug it to ourselves and to make a monopoly out of it. Oh how Israel made a mistake in centuries gone by, using a trusty ship a stewardship as a monopoly. May we not make the same mistake. We are afraid all too many are rejoicing in the things of thy bestowment and thinking they belong to them and them alone. Nothing could be farther from the truth, may we take these truths. May we deeply embed them in our hearts by our spirits working. may we go forth living a life of godliness, a life of love and joy and peace and righteousness for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteous, and peace, and joy in the holy spirit. Bless our father all who hear these words if salvation is the
need, grant that. If assurance is the need, grant that. If encouragement to service is the need, 
graciously provide that. We ask it all with confidence, with joy, with thanksgiving, with praise in 
the worthy name of our lord Jesus Christ, the blessed one, amen.