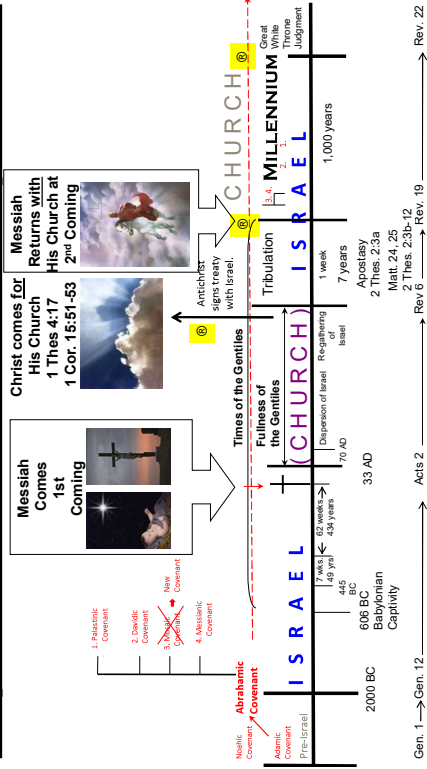


- Looking Ahead –**  
 July 29 – No class.  
 August 5 – Class.  
 August 12, 19, 26 – No Class.  
 Sept. 3 – No Class – Labor Day.  
 Sept. 9 – Class – we resume our regular weekly schedule.

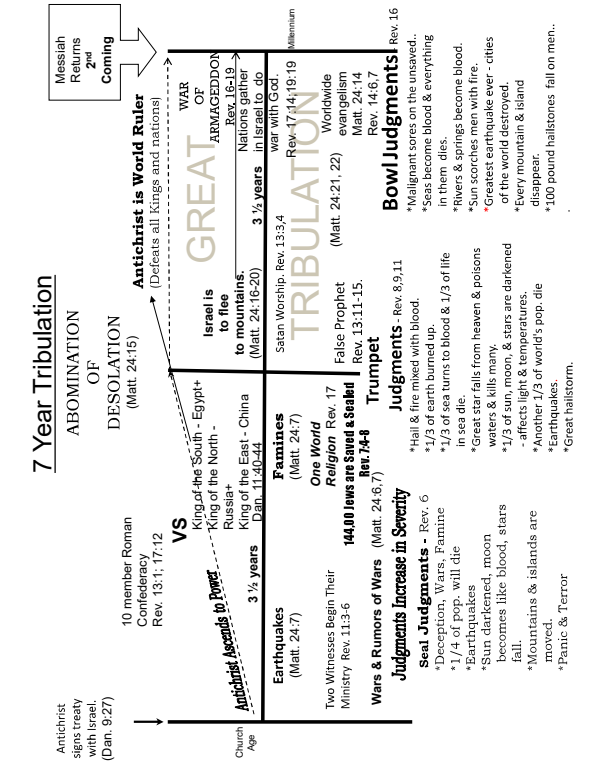
**Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events**



Ⓜ = Resurrection

**“Blessed Are The Dead Who Die In The Lord”**

**Rev. 14:9-13**  
 July 22, 2018



**Rev 14:9-13**

- 9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,**  
**10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**  
**11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."**  
**12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**  
**13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."**

***“Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice,”***

- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> proclamation to the earth from the same vantage point – midheaven.
- Can you imagine the strength of the voices of these 3 angels?
- The world's loudest sound was made by the Krakatoa volcanic eruption in 1883, It was so loud it ruptured eardrums of people 40 miles away, travelled around the world four times, and was clearly heard 3,000 miles away. It was reported at 180 decibels.

***“he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God,”***

- This is in the middle voice, meaning, the person who chooses to take the mark of the beast is also choosing to “drink of the wine of the wrath of God.”
- That means that taking the mark will seal their fate. This is the “final straw.”
- This enforces the principle that there can come a time where unbelievers cross over the line and seal their doom.

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- This is saying if one drinks Babylon’s cup, one must also drink the Lord’s cup.

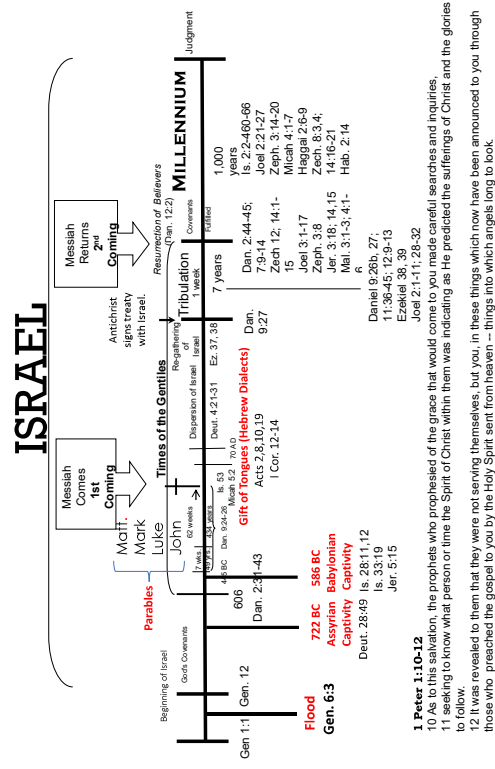
***“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,”***

- 3 classes of “if” in Greek -
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> class: “if and it is true”
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> class: “if and it is not true”
  3. 3<sup>rd</sup> class: “if and maybe its true and maybe its not.

***The call and warning goes out to all those who:***

1. Worship the Beast.
2. Worship his image.
3. Receive the mark.

Old Testament View of Future Prophetic Events



**Rev 14:8, 9b, 10**

- 8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."
- 9 . . . "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,
- 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God,

1 Peter 1:10-12  
 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries  
 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.  
 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you, through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

### Rev 14:9-13

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**10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

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### "and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone"

**torment** - βασανισμός - basanizo – pain, torment.

**Brimstone** – sulfur.

a nonmetallic element that exists in several forms, the ordinary one being a yellow crystalline solid, and that burns with a blue flame and a suffocating odor.

Used especially in making gunpowder and matches, in medicine, in vulcanizing rubber, fertilizer, insecticide.

\*So this is a combination of "fire and brimstone" or burning sulfur.

**wrath** - θυμός – thumos - God's intense rage, more of a sudden outburst. οργή - not as intense, less sudden in its rise but it lasts longer. It simmers.

### Ps 75:8

8 For a cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams;

It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;

Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs.

### Isa 51:17

17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem,

You who have drunk from the Lord's hand the cup of His anger; The chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs.

\*\*in the time of the Bible the imagery of a cup was often used to describe a human experience because once something is swallowed, the results become inescapable. Everything from euphoria and joy to excruciating pain and death came in a cup and being forced to drink a cup of poison was the worst possible experience.

### "which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger;"

- A common practice in the first century was to dilute wine with water so it was not full strength. But this wine is not diluted.

- God's wrath at this point in time will in no way be diluted with His grace and mercy. At this point all of God's mercy and grace will be withdrawn.

- Today God's mercy and grace hold back His justice and wrath.

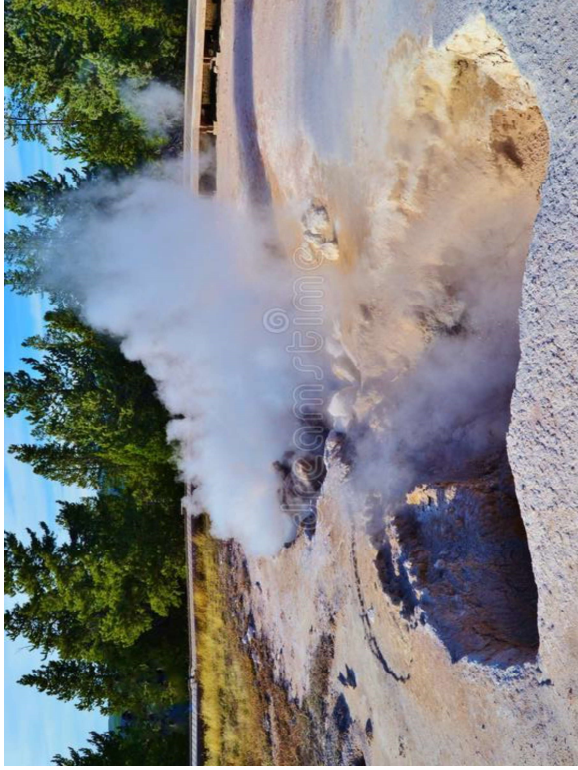
- God's wine is strong. It is not ten percent, eleven percent, twelve percent in wrath content. Its 100%. It is fatal, eternally fatal.

- Only one human being in the history of the world ever drank that cup of God's wrath and survived – Jesus Christ.

### Luke 22:42

42 "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."





**“and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone”**

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Used especially in making gunpowder and matches, in medicine, in vulcanizing rubber, fertilizer, insecticide.

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**Bottom Line: Better to be killed by the Beast than to be tormented in hell with the Beast.**

### Luke 17:29

29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

### Rev 19:20

these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

### Rev 20:10

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### Rev 21:8

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

**“in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”**

- For the unbeliever, this is a reminder of the angels that brought the eternal gospel, a warning of judgment, and the consequences of judgment.

- These angels who are holy and pure will witness:

- God's justice.
- God's Word.
- God's wrath.

### Rev 20:1

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

- The presence of the Lamb is a reminder to the unbelievers, of the One who gave His life for the salvation of all who would believe.

### Rev 14:9-13

9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

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**The goal of the proclamation by the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel is 2-fold:**

1. To cause fear in unbelievers who potentially will worship the beast to bring them to repentance.
2. To encourage believers to remain faithful.

### ***“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever;”***

- Where there is smoke, there is fire.
  - **“forever and ever”** – ages (of) ages – without end, eternal, forever.
- ### **How can the punishment be infinite?**

- Because sin against an infinite Being must necessarily entail infinite and eternal consequences.

### **Man invents theories to deny this truth:**

1. **Universalism** – all will be saved. Love wins – all who are initially cast into hell will come to the realization of God’s love for us and will turn to Him and enter heaven. - Rob Bell
2. **Annihilationism** – no punishment or existence after death.
3. **Conditional release/immortality** – the soul is not immortal. Man will suffer and be punished for his sin and then be released/destroyed (annihilated). The amount of suffering will be conditional based on the degree of evil, wickedness, and sin he/she committed.
4. **Purgatory** – a light, temporary suffering where man is able to atone in part for his sin.

### ***“they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”***

#### ***“no rest day and night”***

- There is no relief, the pain is unrelenting, never lessened, never diminished and never a second of rest.
- There is no one to come to their aid, no one to cry out to.
- No vacation, no coffee break, no way to step out of the chamber and find relief.
- There is no passage of time.
- There is no end in sight.
- Hell will be an endless struggle.

### **Rev 14:9-13**

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### **12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**

- 13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

“The suffering of a Christian martyr burned at the stake may be for a moment, then it is over; then it is glory and reward. But the suffering of those who worship the enemy of Christ is forever and forever.”

People in the world don’t realize what hell is:

Madonna in one of her songs says this line -

"I don't give a damn if I go to hell."

Financial planner said –

“I would rather die and go to hell than to sell someone an annuity”

### ***“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”***

- In contrast to those who refuse to believe, here are those who believe.

#### **They have 3 characteristics:**

1. They are saints positionally. Their standing before God is “holy”. That position can never change.
2. They keep the commandments of God.
  - **keep** – τηρεω – to guard, to obey
  - i.e. obey His Word.
3. They keep their faith in Jesus.
  - They are loyal to their Savior.

\*This is the confidence we have for every generation. Though the world may get really dark, God always has His remnant that will persevere.

## Heb 11:13

13 All these died in faith,

## Rev 12:17

17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

## Rev 14:9-13

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***"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'"***

- The voice probably is Christ.

## Rev 1:19

19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

- Death is a blessing.

- The right way to die is to die in the Lord. The wrong way to die is to die without the Lord.

## Ps 116:15

5 Precious in the sight of the Lord

is the death of His saints.

## "Yes," says the Spirit,"

Why does the Spirit say "yes"?

- Because He is the one who is responsible for bringing believers to glory:

- He convicts the believer of sin.
- He regenerates the believer.
- He baptizes the believer in Christ.
- He gives the believer spiritual gifts.
- He illuminates God's Word as the believer studies.
- He indwells the believer.
- He comforts the believer during trial and sorrow.
- He prays on behalf of the believer.
- He fills (controls) the believer.
- He seals the believer.

- This is the divine "Amen" when the believer reaches heaven.

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## Application

- Fatigue and weariness come from living in a fallen, corrupt world. The struggles of this world weigh on us.
- All the struggle, all the disappointment, all the anxiety, all the fear, all the doubt, all the short-comings, all the unfulfillment, all the dissatisfaction – will all be gone forever.
- That's why in heaven there are no more tears, no more crying, no more sorrow.
- If you are living life and you are struggling with it, know that someday it will come to an end when you die to go to be with the Lord.
- However apart from Christ, your struggle will go on forever, and ever. Eternity will be weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth; outer darkness; isolation.
- Unbelievers will have no rest. Hell will be an ongoing struggle.

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***"so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."***

2 reasons given for being blessed when we die in the Lord:

### 1. Rest.

**rest** – ἀναπαύω – cease from labor, to refresh, to get relief.  
**labor** - κόπος to wear one's self out, to be fatigued, to struggle, to experience weariness, and disappointment.

### 2 Cor 6:4,5

- 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,  
5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

## Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

***"for their deeds follow with them."***

Reason #2 for being blessed when we die in the Lord:

### 2. Reward.

- "their deeds follow" means that their faithfulness will not be forgotten but rewarded.
- The rewards that believers receive will more than compensate for their losses on earth.

### Heb 6:10

10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

### 1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

## The Four Crowns of Scripture



### The Crown of Righteousness

- 2 Tim. 4:6-8
- 1 Cor. 9:24-27

### Faithfulness for fighting the good fight.



### The Crown of Life

- James 1:12
- Rev. 2:10

### Faithfulness in trials.



### The Crown of Joy

- 1 Thes. 2:19
- Phil. 4:1

### Faithfulness in evangelism & making disciples.



### The Crown of Glory

- 1 Pet. 5:1-4
- 1 Cor. 3:12-15

### Faithfulness in shepherding the flock of God.

## 2 Tim 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.  
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## Rev 22:12

12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

"That tear that was shed out of the love of Jesus, God saw it. Nobody else maybe, but He saw it. And that humble prayer that was prayed, God heard it. And that desire in the heart to worship God and do good for Him that maybe never materialized, He wrote it in His book. That gracious gesture, that sweet and kind word, that little note maybe that you wrote out of the love of your heart and for Jesus; these things never fall to the ground."

- W.A. Criswell



Fanny Crosby  
(1820-1915)

Fanny Crosby loved sharing the Gospel with anyone who would listen. In 1869 she penned the words to this hymn. When asked about the song, she explained, "It was written following a personal experience at the New York City Bowery Mission." This was a very rough and dark part of New York City. She went on to explain that she would go one night a week to talk to "her boys." One night while speaking to them, she kept having the thought that there was a boy present who had wandered away from his mother and must be rescued that night, or he would be eternally lost. She made a plea to each boy that was there that night.



Fanny Crosby  
(1820-1915)

At the end of the service, one of the young men came forward and said, "Did you mean me, Miss Crosby? I promised my mother to meet her in Heaven, but as I am now living that will be impossible." She prayed with him and led him to Christ. As they finished, he said, "Now I am ready to meet my mother in Heaven, for I have found God."  
Fanny Crosby returned that day from visiting the mission. Her sympathies had been aroused to help the lowly and neglected, and the cry of her heart went forth in this hymn, which has become a battle cry for the great army of Christian workers throughout the world. The name of this hymn is . . .



## RESCUE THE PERISHING

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

### **Refrain**

***Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.***

2. Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,  
Waiting the penitent child to receive;  
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;  
He will forgive if they only believe.

### **Refrain**

3. Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;  
Touched by a loving heart, awakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

### **Refrain**

4. Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will

### **provide;**

Back to the narrow way patiently win them;

Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

### **Refrain**