

Title: MESSAGE OF ANGELS, REVELATION 14:6 – 12
(Chatham, NJ; 04/28/13, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: The predominant message in Revelation is the call to endure and conquer.

Purpose: To urge the church to endure through the presence of evil forces by realizing that God works to destroy them.

Introduction:

1. Revelation is apocalyptic literature.
2. A sense of determinism (explain) permeated the early literature: “God had given the world over to its own evil folly according to his prescribed plan.” (Priest, *The Exegete*, in Revelation folder)
3. In other words, though He has allowed evil to flourish, all things are working out according to a plan (Eph. 1:9-10).
4. As with all of the New Testament, we find a mixture of this pre-destined plan along with the free will sense that we must make the right choices for ourselves.

I. A Word about Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls of Wrath

A. Not Chronological, but a Reduplication

1. Each displays a picture of judgment
 - 6:12ff. – cosmic shakeup, people running for cover
 - 14:17-20, angels reaping
 - 17 – judgment against the Great Prostitute: worldly power
2. The details of each do not coincide exactly but each demonstrates the judgment of God against evil
3. They depict the same eschatological message from a different perspective.

B. God's power is present and asserting itself

1. From the throne, 4:5
2. Combined with the prayers of the saints, the earth experiences the presence of this power, 8:5
3. Exerted at the presence of the Kingdom, 11:19
4. After the seventh bowl of wrath, 16:17-18
5. The same cosmic shaking occurs after each sequence to demonstrate the presence and power of God

II. Images of Evil

A. People on Earth do not repent

1. Implied in 6:15
2. 9:20-21, those not killed by the plagues of the trumpets
3. 16:9 & 11, they did not repent during the bowls of wrath
4. They gathered for battle instead, 16:16
5. Chapter 18 – many weep and wail at the destruction of Babylon
6. Their evil ways continues unabated, 2 Tim. 3:1 (times of difficulty will come), 2 Tim. 4:3 (others not endure sound teaching)

B. The prostitute, the beast, and the serpent

1. Images representative of an evil world
2. Babylon the Great, mother of prostitutes, 17:5 – Babylon: the symbol of a world without God and founded upon human impulses
3. The beasts of chapter 13: the first utters blasphemies (5) and the second makes the earth worship the first (12)

4. The number of the second beast is 666 (Nero and a representative of all godless rulers who are against God)
5. The serpent or dragon (Satan) is involved in a war against the saints (12:9, 17)
6. He is thrown into the bottomless pit but released after the 1,000 year reign
7. Ultimately he is thrown into the lake of fire (21:10)

III. The Saints Must Endure (13:10 & 14:12): the message of Angels

- A. The hour of judgment has come, 14:6-7
 1. Christ's coming is an act of judgment against the darkness, John 3:19
 2. He came to destroy Satan, 1 John 3:8
 3. To those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, this is good news
 4. Fear God and worship him who created all things
- B. Fallen is Babylon the Great, 14:8
 1. Babylon, the great worldly power set against all that is good and is of God
 2. Genesis 11 provides the benchmark representing a culture against God
 3. Babylon is "the world" (James 4:4)
 4. The destruction of an evil Kingdom is a cause for joy among the righteous
- C. Don't worship the beast, 14:9-11
 1. God's wrath poured out on those who worship the beast, 10
 2. Jesus tempted to worship him, Mt. 4:9
 3. They pay the price of eternal torment
 4. They have refused to join in the heavenly chorus of worship to God

Conclusions:

1. Defeat is not a pre-determined option for Christians, Heb. 10:36-39
2. The saints must choose to endure to the end if they are to conquer.
3. There is no Job-like questioning about the suffering.
4. We are involved in a cosmic war that we must fight.
5. Never give up!