10272024 Chapters 13+14 offer a concise preview of what is to come....let review these chapters .. As we move into chapter 13 we see get introduced to how he is going to do oppose the plan of God to restore his planet unto himself ...

... Revelation 13 presents two Beasts who will rule the world in tandem...the first beast, also know as the Anti-Christ, rises from the sea, is the political Dictator and military leader of the world. The second Beast, who comes from the earth is a religious, commercial head. The second Beast is also known as the false prophet...

This one world government is terrifying and powerful; as verse 7 tells us:

ESVREV 13:7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

And chapter 14 answers two important questions raised by Revelation 13. One... "Is the beast completely victorious over all God's people?" the answer is emphatically says "no." The second question has to do with this Satanic dictator himself:

"What happens to the beast and his followers?"

Chapter <u>Revelation 14</u> will emphasize God's ultimate authority

As we ended chapter 12 last week ...we see the enemy failing to stop the Messiah Jesus first coming... and failing to destroy the Jews in the first half of the seven year tribulation...and now turns his attention in the last half of the tribulation by making war on the living saints...and establishing his own world

government to rule God's planet... the dragon turns his attention to destroy every other believer

Rev 12:¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

He establishe his own trinity in defiance of God to have dominion over the earth..as Eev 16 tells us

****ESV Rev 16: ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet....

Tim put this up...

These Three make up the unholy Trinity of the end times...

- 1. Satan is the False Father (the anti-father)
- 2. The first Beast is the from the earth (Anti-Christ)
- 3. The False Prophet is the counterfeit Spirit (the anti-spirit) the religious system leader

THE ANTICHRIST called the Beast ...leader of a one world government

ESV REV 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

 Beast rising out of the sea...whenever you see water or body of water in scripture...it almost never refers to a water...but peoples..the sea of humanity

The Second Beast or the false prophet...one world religious leader... the two will work together

ESV Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

- Rising out of the earth...A worldly religious system out of the earth not Heavenreligious system
- <u>Two horns</u>...two the number of testimony...<u>like a lamb but not a lamb...Jesus uses that term speaking of himself in Revelation more than any other term. he has religious testimony</u>
- but he speaks like a dragon...with powerful deception...lies
- Comes across religious, high and holy ...but powered and controlled by Satan..he is a mouthpiece for Satan

ESV Rev 13:12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. 13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

- he makes people worship the first beast...
 - this power fire from heaven scares the people into thinking he has godlike power ...and shows he is a great religious person

14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Three quick things about the False Prophet....

- 1. The purpose of..verse 12 He emerges as a world leader which ends up being a one world religion...one world government led by Anti-Christ or first Beast.
- Is this a statue?... noema =breath not bios ...is it in the rebuilt temple? Daniel 9 and 12 tells us it is after he sets up a covenant of peace with Israel...
- The power of ...verse 13, 15 ...He has miraculous power
 There are miraculous powers that are not from God...that is why we have to test the Spirits... don't believe everything supernatural is from the Lord...much is...but the bible is our guide to the ways of God...
- This one world Religion led by False Prophet
 Whose purpose is to draws attention and worship away from
 God and onto the Anti-Christthis is what Jesus said about
 this...when the anti-christ sets himself up in the temple..

ESV Matt 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

2. The plan ... verse 16-18

Rev 13: 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls

for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

- if you want to buy food or be part of the economy you must bear the sign...
- Those believers who refuse to align themselves in worship of the Beast by bearing a sign.....will pay a great price...starve or go broke...
- great speculation... about the sign...6 is the number of human... humans created on the sixth day... three sixes could represent the whole of humanity...
- chip in credit card...bar codes ...it can be any identifying mark of allegiance..
- could be one six the person, second six the anti-Christ, third six the false prophet... or Satan, antichrist, false prophet....
- It seems the enemy is in charge....

On to Revelation 14...Which will emphasize God's ultimate authority and the importance of maintaining faith and endurance, even amidst tribulation.

• The chapter begins with the vision of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, when Jesus returns to earth accompanied by 144,000 Jewish believers who have lived through the seven year tribulation at Armageddon...and the Judgment begins...

ESV Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could

learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

• These 144,000 were first seen in <u>Revelation 7</u>, where they were identified as a group of Jewish believers who minister during the great tribulation and are given a seal of protection throughout that period. These two places are the only places they are mentioned in Revelation.

ESV Rev 7: ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel

- Since they stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb, it shows that they emerge victorious from the great tribulation.
- This proves the power of God's ability to keep those whom he seals!!
- They gathered on Mount Zion because Zion the ancient name for the hills that make up Jerusalem is the place where the Messiah gathers His redeemed and reigns over the earth ... So this is a preview of the end of the Tribulation where Jesus stands victorious on the earth.
- Having Jesus and His Father's name written on their foreheads: The followers of Satan and the beast may have a mark on their hand or forehead (Revelation 13:16-17). But this mark is just a copy of the idea behind the identifying mark on the foreheads of each one of the 144,000, showing that they belong to the Father.
- Heard The voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder: The voice of God (Revelation 1:15 and 4:5). proclaiming His approval of these 144,000 faithful servants
 - And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps And they sang as it were a new song before the throne: the elders

- of <u>Revelation 5:8</u> have harps. and the 144,000 as they sing a new song, unique to them.
- They are on earth but ... their praise takes them right to the presence of God, right before the throne. In our praise and worship, we really can transport ourselves and be heard in heavenly places.
- "Heaven is not the place to learn that song; it must be learned on the earth.

ESV Rev 14:4 It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

- These are the ones follow the Lamb wherever He goes,
- Being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb: Why? they themselves will be instrumental in God's plan for bringing in describes an innumerable company saved out of the Great Tribulation.
- An angel preaches the gospel. ESV Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."
- This is the only place in the New Testament where we see angels preaching the Gospel. In God's wisdom, He has chosen to give that responsibility to people alone, apart from the rarest of exceptions.

- This other angel joins in preaching to those in the latter part of the great tribulation., but also announces judgment (the hour of His judgment has come).
- <u>Fear God and give Him glory</u>: This is what the angel will tell the whole world to do. They can do this and give glory to God and worship Him willingly in this life, or be compelled to give glory to Him later.

<u>Philippians 2:9-11</u> says, Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Tools so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- "Here is the bitter irony of their lot: though they damn themselves eternally by their refusal to face the truth, one day they will be forced to face it.
- And every nation, tribe, tongue, and people will get the message: This can be a valid fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Matthew 24:14 ESV Matt 24:14And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- *** Then Another angel another announcement.

is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

- Babylon is fallen: More on Babylon will come in <u>Revelation 17</u>.
 For now, it is enough to see it representing mankind in organized rebellion against God.
- "Prophetically, 'Babylon' sometimes refers to a literal city, sometimes to a religious system, sometimes to a political

- system, all stemming from the evil character of historic Babylon."
- Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication: When we are told that Babylon has led all nations into fornication, the main idea is *spiritual* fornication the worship of other gods.
- However, we are never surprised to see spiritual fornication accompanied with literal immorality.

A third angel warns of coming judgment.

- ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur 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, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."
- No one will casually or accidentally take the mark on their forehead or right hand. It is a declaration of allegiance and worship of the beast and his image.
- The one who does shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation: Those who worship the Antichrist will be forced to drink the wine of the wrath of God. (full strength).

The idea that God holds a cup of wrath, which He makes those under judgment drink is expressed more than thirteen times in the Bible...

The Harvest of the Earth

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

- WE see Jesus as the One gathering the harvest here. i. Having on His head a golden crown not the crown of thorns...:
- The word used here does not usually refer to the diadem of power, but to the crown won in conflict; and it is very remarkable that it should be said that, when Christ comes to judge the world, he will wear the crown of victory,
- The harvest of the earth is ripe: This ancient Greek word for ripe has a negative sense, "to become dry or withered." The idea is of something that is *over*-ripe.
- This means that God will judge the earth only when it is *over*-ripe for judgment. He doesn't rush into judgment.

*** Until This happens

who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

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

• We see the incredible contrast between the rest of the saints and the continual torment of the wicked

- The rest comes through patient endurance and faithfulness as they continue to keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.
- We can only imagine what courage and comfort this passage will give embattled, persecuted saints during the Great Tribulation. Clearly, God wants to encourage His people to be steadfast in times of trial, focused on what blessed rest and reward awaits them in eternity.

Their works follow them: The patient endurance and work of these saints is remembered in heaven. Our work for Jesus and His Kingdom goes with us into heaven, giving dignity and significance to all work here below.

END next week 15 and on toward our complete victory