

# God's Master Plan In Prophecy

## Lesson 10 – The Simultaneous Harvests & the 144,000 Jews

Key Scriptures: Revelation 9:12 – 11:19

### Introduction

We have waited until this lesson to study the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> chapters of the book of Revelation because they complement each other perfectly. The 7<sup>th</sup> chapter was a parenthetical chapter that occurred between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal. The 14<sup>th</sup> chapter is a view of the simultaneous harvest of the Jewish nation and the redeemed church. Both chapters deal with what is commonly known as “the rapture of the church” and then God giving the Jews a second chance at salvation. Before we begin this lesson, we need to establish some basic scriptural teaching regarding these subjects and introduce some analogies that the scriptures use in teaching on these subjects.

First of all, the Bible very clearly teaches a literal rapture of the church. Christians use the word “rapture”<sup>1</sup> to refer to Jesus Christ coming back in the clouds to gather together the Spirit-filled church but the scriptural term is “the catching away of the saints.” Those who are ready will literally “fly away” to meet Him in the air and then return to heaven with Him until His Second Coming. It is important to grasp that *the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the Church are two separate events*. In the Rapture of the church, the saints rise to meet Jesus Christ so that they can go to heaven with Him (saints move upward); in the Second Coming of Christ, the saints return to the earth with Jesus Christ to rule and reign with Him (saints move downward). In the time between, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place. We will read the actual scriptures that teach on the Rapture of the church in a moment.

Secondly, the Bible very clearly teaches that God turned to the Gentiles after the Jewish people's rejection of Jesus Christ but will return again to the Jewish people after the time of the Gentiles has been fulfilled.<sup>2</sup> There is a dangerous school of thought alive today called “preterism” which incorrectly believes that God is completely finished with dealing with the Jewish people as far as salvation is concerned.<sup>1</sup> To quote the words of Paul written to some Christians in Rome who obviously were leaning toward believing the same lie:

**Rom 11:1-2a I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.**

A few verses later, Paul made it very clear that God will again turn back to the Jewish people:

**Rom 11:25-26 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”**

Paul actually spends most of the chapter warning the church in Rome not to think so highly of themselves that they are the only people that God would save! The key point here is that the nation of Israel will be saved *after* the time of the Gentiles has been fulfilled or finished. This current era of the Gentiles is called “the Era of Grace.” Of course, a Jewish person can be saved now under Grace but he has to follow the same plan of salvation that the Gentiles have to follow.<sup>3</sup> Most of the confusion in people's minds tends to come from the fact that God referred to the Jewish people as His bride before Calvary and yet refers to the born-again church as His bride after Calvary. For a Jew to become a part of the “bride of Christ” today, they must be born again of the water and the Spirit and become a part of the Apostolic church.<sup>4</sup> Understanding the principle that Jews can be a part of the church helps to clear up the misconceptions: when God turns back to the rest of the Jewish people *after* the Rapture of the church, He will not be treating them as His bride but He will be fulfilling His promises to Abraham and David.

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“Rapture” means “to be caught up in great excitement” and no doubt such will be the feelings of those who realize that they are being caught away to meet Jesus in the clouds!

<sup>2</sup> See Luke 21:24; the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

<sup>3</sup> Compare Acts 2:37-39 with Acts 10:34-48.

<sup>4</sup> See John 3:3-5.

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## **Prophecy #10 – The Simultaneous Harvests & the 144,000 Jews**

And so it is important to grasp the fact that when the Rapture of the Church happens, there will be two simultaneous events happening: the ending of the time of the Gentiles by the "gathering" of the Spirit-filled saints – which will also include Spirit-filled Jews such as Peter and Paul – and the beginning of God turning back to the Jewish people and giving them one final chance at salvation. Keeping all of this in mind, let's look at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Revelation.

### **The 144,000 Jews and a Great Multitude Get To Heaven**

**Rev 7:1-3 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."**

This chapter was inserted between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal. The 6<sup>th</sup> seal is the wrath of God so it would seem that these events happen as the sixth seal opens immediately *before* the wrath of God is poured out. The angels are not permitted to hurt the earth until the servants of God are "sealed."

To understand the symbols being used one has to grasp that in Biblical days, a king's seal was a "mark" or "emblem" of the king that was pressed into mold-able wax or clay and that represented the king's power, presence, and authority. The scriptures teach that when a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit they are considered "sealed" or stamped with the mark of God.<sup>5</sup>

**Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

**Eph 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

The term "sealed" in these scripture is used in the common usage of the day meaning "to bear the mark of the king."<sup>ii</sup> These scripture underscore the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit for it is absolutely necessary to go in the Rapture of the Church at to be caught away by Jesus Christ:

**Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

There are several key words in the above verse: *if you have the Spirit of God in you*, then you will go in the Rapture of the Church – the Holy Spirit is your ticket to heaven and what enables us to get from here to there! There is a major difference between feeling the Spirit of God and having it come in you and that's why the infilling of the Holy Spirit is so important to receive!<sup>6</sup>

**Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:**

There are two groups of people that are mentioned in this chapter as having been "sealed." The second group will be the Apostolic church, but the first is the 144,000 Jews with 12,000 being taken from each tribe:

**Rev 7:5-8 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.**

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Also see John 6:27; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

<sup>6</sup> See the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> chapters of Acts for Biblical examples of people receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

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Some people get so caught up with trying to identify these Jewish people that they miss the essential points of this list – this list is actually somewhat shocking. First, the tribes of Dan and Ephraim, who were the most idolatrous tribes of Israel, are missing. In their place are the Levites – those who were priests in the Old Testament – and the ambiguous "tribe of Joseph." This shows how much God hates idolatry! The second point is that history teaches us that after Calvary, Herod had all of the Jewish genealogical records destroyed. Today no Jew can prove what tribe that they are from and only God can separate them as has been done in this list; the Jewish Rabbis believe that when Messiah comes that He will divide the Jewish people according to their true tribes. Their teaching agrees with the scripture, and we will come back to the 144,000 Jews in greater detail in a moment.

**Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;**

Here is the second group that was sealed: the redeemed church! Notice that the "great multitude" is from "every nation" and all tribes and peoples and tongues – in other words, both Gentiles and Jews are included. This group were "standing before the throne" so this great multitude has been transported from earth to heaven. The Rapture of the Church or the Catching Away of the Saints has taken place! The white robes symbolize righteousness – living as God wants us to live – and the branches of palm trees symbolize praise.<sup>7</sup>

**Rev 7:10-12 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."**

This great multitude praised God when they got to heaven and were joined by the angels in a thunderous worship service for the ages! The angelic leaders of worship fell on their faces and worshiped God with a seven-fold praise: blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might. Seven is the number of God's perfect completion and for our praise to be complete, it must have these seven elements intertwined with it!

**Rev 7:13-14 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

This is a very important scripture because it teaches us several important truths. First, it indicates to us that the raptured church – that's the only way they got from the earth to heaven – came out of "great tribulation!" How could they have "come out of" great tribulation if they were raptured before the great tribulation as so many teach? Obviously, they are raptured out of great tribulation but before the wrath of God is poured out which coincides with every other scripture that we have studied!

Secondly, we are told that they made their robes white by washing them in the "blood of the Lamb." This cleansing is what Ananias referred to when he commanded Saul/Paul to be baptized in the name of Jesus:

**Acts 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'**

We know that only the blood of Jesus can wash our sins away,<sup>8</sup> so obviously when a person is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, they are having the blood of Jesus wash their past sins away and the result is a robe of righteousness in their life! God forgives us our sin at repentance but washes the stain of our sins from our spiritual man at water baptism in His name;<sup>iii</sup> this is why the scriptures teach us that water baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation.<sup>9</sup>

**Rev 7:15-17 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."**

<sup>7</sup> See Revelation 19:8; John 12:13.

<sup>8</sup> See Hebrews 10:4-5.

<sup>9</sup> See Mark 16:16; John 3:5; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Acts 2:37-39; Acts 10:48; 19:1-6.

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“For this reason, they are before the throne of God.” What reason? “Because they washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb – what a great promise from God! To those who go in the Rapture of the church, all heartache and pain shall be over and the situations described in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> verses happen during the wrath of God and indicate what we have already discovered: the Apostolic, Spirit-filled, Jesus-name church will miss the wrath of God!

### **The Simultaneous Harvests**

The 7<sup>th</sup> chapter is not the only vision of John that dealt with these subjects and we are given more information about both the 144,000 Jews and the Rapture of the Church and the Catching Away of the Saints in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation.

**Rev 14:1-3 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. 3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.**

These are obviously the same 144,000 Jews mentioned in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter and they must have been a part of the Rapture of the Church because they have been transported from earth to heaven. The question that puzzles many are "who are these 144,000 Jews?" and, indeed, a major false religion has been founded on a massive twisting of this text.<sup>10</sup> The next few verses give us some more clues as to these Jews' true identity:

**Rev 14:4-5 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.**

These 144,000 Jews are "virgins" and they were "redeemed from among men." They are also the "first fruits unto God." The term "virgin" probably refers to a spiritual purity in that they have not worshiped idols or followed a false way. Remember that these Jews will be redeemed from the great tribulation after the Antichrist has gone into the Jewish temple claiming to be the Messiah. It seems that at least 144,000 Jews will not believe or follow the Antichrist.<sup>11</sup> It is also possible that they may be virgins in the literal sense and that they may be some of the orthodox Jewish believers who have never married and have devoted their lives to waiting upon the Messiah. "First fruits" is a very common scriptural term used to denote the first of a harvest.<sup>12</sup> The first fruits were always cut ahead of the time when the actual harvest began, were to be offered to God, and symbolized a greater harvest yet to be reaped. These 144,000 Jews that go in the Rapture of the church are the first fruits of the coming harvest of Israel after the Rapture. That is, when God turns back to the Jews, they will have an opportunity to be saved, but these 144,000 Jews will already have made it! There is an Old Testament vision in Ezekiel that gives us additional information:

**Ezek 9:4 The Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."**

In this vision, the Spirit of the Lord had departed from the temple and God commanded that a "mark" be placed upon the foreheads of the men that sighed and cried for the "abominations" that were being done in Jerusalem and the temple! Comparing this to the description given in Revelation 14:1, it seems that these 144,000 Jews will be those who are alive during the end times and that cry out to God in despair when they realize that the Antichrist is false! That they go in the Rapture of the church and arrive in heaven along with the "great multitude" that was redeemed from every nation seems to indicate that these devout Jewish men will be converted to Christianity and will be filled with the Holy Spirit and thus will be a part of the bride of Christ. They will be converted by the realization that God's glory does not dwell in the literal temple in Jerusalem after they see that God does not strike the impostor down at the abomination of the desolation; this view of the 144,000 has much more scripture to back it up than any of the zillions of opinions that I have heard.<sup>iv</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> I refer to the Watchtower Organization or what is more commonly known as "Jehovah's Witnesses."

<sup>11</sup> See 1 Corinthians 11:2; Isaiah 1:21 for two examples of the many times that "virgin" and "harlot" are used to denote a spiritual condition.

<sup>12</sup> See Deuteronomy 26:3-10; Exodus 22:29; 23:19; 34:26.

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**Rev 14:6-7** And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

At this point, John saw three angels go forth proclaiming certain messages and the first angel's message was that of "the eternal gospel." My father-in-law points out that for an angel – and not a preacher – to be preaching the gospel it must be *after* the Rapture of the church because during the present time period of Grace, it is the ministry's job to preach the Gospel.<sup>13</sup> The angel announces that the judgment of God has come to the world: that is, it is time for the wrath of God to fall.

**Rev 14:8** 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."

The Christian writers used "Babylon" to refer to the evil city of Rome.<sup>14</sup> The 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation gives us much more information about this event and we will discuss it thoroughly when we get to that point in the book.

**Rev 14:9-11** 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."

We have already read and discussed these verses when we discussed the fate of those who took the mark of the beast; the scripture is extremely clear and precise: all who take the mark of the Antichrist will be eternally lost. By contrast, those who receive the "mark" or "seal of Christ" meaning the Holy Ghost, will be ready for the Rapture and eternally saved! It seems as if at this point in the chapter, John begins to see some general conclusions about the Great Tribulation. It's almost like God is "tying up some loose ends:" we are first told what will happen to those who gave in and took the mark of the beast, then God gives some encouragement for those saints who will go through the Great Tribulation:

**Rev 14:12** Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Those that make it to heaven do so from "keeping the commandments of God" and the "faith of Jesus!" They must remain patient through this three and a half year period and allow the plan of God to take it's course. Of course, this is not just good advice for the Great Tribulation, but for everyday living as well: keep the commandments of God, the faith of Jesus, and patiently wait for God's plan to happen!

**Rev 14:13** 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."

This has to still be a reference to saints who die during the Great Tribulation because it states those "which die in the Lord." We know the Rapture of the Church happens before the Wrath of God is poured out so this must be during the tribulation. There seems to be a special blessing reserved for those who give their life as a martyr for Jesus Christ. We will talk more about this when we get to the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation but the voice commanded John to write this blessing down for other Christians to read so the term "who die from now on" seems to indicate from the time that John wrote the vision to modern times – to be more precise, there seems to be a special blessing on those martyrs who were killed after A.D. 100.

**Rev 14:14-16** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

<sup>13</sup> See Acts 5:42; Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:21.

<sup>14</sup> See 1 Peter 5:13.

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This is the vision of the simultaneous harvest and the first harvest perfectly matches the description of the Rapture of the church. The "Son of Man" refers to Jesus Christ and such a phrase is used many times throughout the scriptures. Before we finish the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, let's look at some of what are commonly known as "the Rapture scriptures" and get a few more details about this blessed event where the saints will be caught away to be with Jesus Christ:

**Matt 24:29-31 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**

Remember that there is a vast difference between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ. In the Rapture, the church goes up, and in the Second Coming we come back down with Him! This scripture in Matthew introduces some key phrases which occur time and time again: the earth will see Jesus Christ appear in the clouds, at the sound of a trumpet the saints will be gathered together to meet Him, and notice that that Jesus Christ's feet do not touch the earth at the Rapture of the Church but the church meets Him in the clouds. For us to do that, we must suddenly fly; for us to fly, then we somehow change:

**1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**

Jesus is still in His glorified body that He received at His resurrection, and the scripture says that we will "just as He is!" In His glorified body, Jesus could not die and was eternally alive. He was able to be visible and touched but could also disappear and pass through walls. He could eat if He wanted but did not necessarily need the nourishment. He was able to ascend into the clouds while the other disciples watched.<sup>15</sup> The Rapture of the Church will be the changing of all Spirit-filled believers to a similar glorified body with the same characteristics!

**Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

This scripture removes all doubt that our bodies will be like Jesus Christ! The Apostle Paul had a tremendous, God-given revelation of this event and adds many details:

**1 Thess 4:13-17 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

Once again we find that those "dead in Christ" will be caught up to meet the Lord in the clouds at the sounding of the "trumpet of God." We have also been given new information here: Verse 17 says that all of those who are still alive who are Spirit filled believer will also be changed and also be caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds!

**1 Cor 15:50-54 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

The entire 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of I Corinthians is about the Rapture of the Church and the catching away of the saints. Paul states that our physical bodies – that can corrupt or decay – will be changed into incorruption! The change will happen at

<sup>15</sup> See the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke and the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Acts.

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the sounding of the trumpet and here we have even more additional information: it will happen at the last trumpet! Notice that the scripture says that we will be *changed* in a moment of a twinkling of an eye. Nowhere does the scripture teach that we will disappear in the twinkling of an eye, but rather that the change from physical bodies to glorified bodies will happen in the twinkling of an eye.<sup>15</sup> After this great event, all Spirit-filled believers who were ready to meet Jesus will be immortal and will forever be with Jesus Christ! They will also miss the wrath of God – this is definitely the part of the harvest of which you want to be a part!

Let's move on to the second part of the simultaneous harvest. The first part was the Rapture of the Spirit-filled church which I believe included the 144,000 Jews that were sealed. The second part of the harvest is the remainder of the Jewish people – that is, those Jews that did not go in the Rapture.<sup>16</sup>

**Rev 14:17-18 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. 18 Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."**

The second part of the harvest is the harvesting of "grapes." That the grapes represent the Jewish nation can be discovered by looking at a parallel passage in Isaiah of this entire event found in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah:

**Isa 5:7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel And the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress. NASU**

The entire 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah parallels the second part of the simultaneous harvest here in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation. In it God compares the Jewish people as His vineyard and asks the question "what more could I have done to my vineyard?" He sent prophet after prophet; He even came in flesh to preach to the Jewish people and did miracle after miracle and still the majority of the Jewish people rejected Him! Instead of reaping a good crop of righteous people, all God received in return was idolatry and hypocrisy. The rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah describes in detail what the next verse in Revelation tells us:

**Rev 14:19 So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.**

God causes the Jewish people who are alive after the Rapture of the Church and who were not ready to go in the catching away of the saints to go through the Wrath of God and here the Wrath of God is called "the great winepress!" By allowing the Jewish people to suffer through His Wrath, God will be able to "squeeze" some righteousness from them and finally convince them that Jesus Christ really was the Messiah! We will study this event in detail in our next lesson.

**Rev 14:20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.**

The scriptures teach that two-thirds of the Jewish people alive after the Rapture of the Church will be killed during the wrath of God.<sup>17</sup> "Blood up to the horse bridles" was a Hebrew figure of speech that described horrible a massacre. The scripture says that the bloodshed will cover a distance of 200 miles and the Battle of Armageddon – which will wipe out most of the Jewish people – will begin in a valley exactly 200 miles north of Jerusalem. We will study this in detail in a future lesson.

### **Review**

Let's place this new information together in context with all of the other lessons that we have studied thus far. The abomination of desolation – when the Antichrist goes into a rebuilt Jewish temple and proclaims that he is god – will cause some devout Jewish men to cry out to the one, true living God. God will then "seal" or "mark" them by filling them with His Spirit and they will become born-again Christians. These 144,000 Jews will go with all other Spirit-filled believers in the Rapture of the Church when Jesus Christ appears in the clouds to catch away His born-again believers. At the same time, the wrath of God will begin to fall and Jesus will turn to the remainder of the Jewish people and give the one-third

<sup>16</sup> Remember that there will be more Jews than 144,000 go in the Rapture of the Church. Jewish people who died right with God and born again believers such as Peter, Paul, Timothy, John, etc...

<sup>17</sup> See Zechariah 13:8-9.

## ***Prophecy #10 – The Simultaneous Harvests & the 144,000 Jews***

who make it through the wrath of God alive a second chance at salvation. As for the remainder of the Gentiles that missed the Rapture of the Church, there is no scripture to give them any hope for salvation: they missed their opportunity. Their children who are not yet of age will have their chance at salvation during the Millennial Reign which we will also discuss in detail in a future lesson. Whatever you do, make sure that you are ready to meet Jesus when He comes for His bride, the church!

## Endnotes

To believe this errant doctrine is to do away with many, many passages of scripture including Romans chapters 9-11. To explain away these scriptures, preterists have to allegorize (not interpret scripture literally) many passages of scripture and usually end up with prophetic conclusions for which they have no scriptural support (such as Gentiles being saved under Grace AFTER the Rapture of the church).

<sup>ii</sup> The term "sealed" does not mean that once a person receives the Holy Spirit, nothing they do can cause them to miss heaven. The errant belief of "once saved: always saved" does not find any support in scripture (see Hebrews 2:1-3; II Peter 2:20-22; Revelation 3:14-16 for some of many scriptures that annihilate the doctrine of "eternal security").

<sup>iii</sup> The easiest way to explain this concept is through an object lesson. If I had a chocolate ice cream cone and I tripped and accidentally dumped the ice cream on your shirt, I would be mortified and immediately ask for forgiveness. Unless you happen to be a rude Grinch, you would say, "I forgive you." At that point, I have repented to you for my wrongdoing and you have forgiven my trespass, but the stain of what I did is still there on your shirt. It will remain there until you take it and wash it in water with a cleansing agent. In the same way, God forgives us when we ask for forgiveness of our sins but the stains of those sins are still very much a part of our spiritual garment. We cleanse our robe of righteousness by water baptism and the cleansing agent is the blood of Jesus!

Notice also that the message that Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts and throughout the Apostolic church (see Acts 2, 8, 10, 19) of repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit are all necessary to be "Rapture ready." Those who made it to heaven got there by the work of the Spirit of God taking them from earth to heaven and they had a robe of righteousness that they had washed in the blood of Jesus.

<sup>iv</sup> Like the view of the Jehovah's Witnesses that these 144,000 are the only ones saved from the earth and that go in the Catching Away of the Saints. They need to keep reading in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation and get to the great multitude that also make it there! Furthermore, where does it say that these 144,000 are not literal Jews? The Bible clearly details that 12,000 are from each tribe of Israel. To spiritualize these passages and allegorize them is to clearly twist the intended meaning and the fact that those who believe such things completely miss that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> chapter also describes a great number of people in the form of the Apostolic church that were also apart of the Catching Away of the Saints only proves their error. If you have been taught this delusion: keep reading and don't stop in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation with the 144,000 but answer the questions of "who is this great multitude that is also in heaven and who washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb? And, more importantly, how did they get from earth to heaven? There's no way that I'm going to be a part of a religion that teaches that only 144,000 people goes to heaven when my Bible states that "a great multitude" will be there! I aim to be in that number!

<sup>v</sup> Many religions present the Rapture of the Church as a time when people who are Spirit filled will just disappear, but the scripture clearly state that the people in the world will see Jesus in the clouds and will see the gathering (see Matthew 24 above). Also if we are to be like Jesus then we will slowly ascend while those on the earth watch us disappear into the clouds just as the disciples watched Jesus' ascension (see Luke 24, Acts 1)!