Session 9 Second Coming and Rapture: War in the Spirit (Rev. 11-14)

1. the rapture and replacement of world governments (Rev. 11:15-19)

*We are going to begin in Revelation 11:15-19. This is the rapture of the church* ***and*** *the replacement of all the world governments. That seems like, “Whoa. What?” A lot of times when we talk about the Second Coming of Christ, we understand the church being raptured. One thing that is not always emphasized is that all the governments of the earth are going to be replaced in one day. That is a monumental task for a human to do that. Of course Jesus is fully God, but He is also fully Man. God has given the task to change all the governments of the earth at one time to one Man. That is related to the whole theology of the Second Coming. He is not just coming to take us away to heaven. He is coming to bring heaven to earth, and all the empires of the earth will be under His authority.*

* + 1. This is the third chronological section in which events in Jesus’ end-time action plan are seen. At the seventh trumpet, an announcement in heaven will declare that the Lord will take over and replace all the governments on earth. At this time, He will also do three things—He will judge the dead, reward the saints, and destroy the leaders who are responsible for destroying the earth.

15The seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” 16And the twenty-four elders…worshiped God, 17saying: “We give You thanks… because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants…and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (Rev. 11:15-18)

*This is the third chronological section in the book. What I mean by a chronological section: there are five of chronological sections where events unfold in a sequential or chronological order, one after the other, in a chronological way. At the seventh trumpet, which happens in this third chronological section, an announcement in heaven declares that the Lord is going to take over and replace all the governments of the earth.*

*At the seventh trumpet, there is a heavenly announcement, but I do not know if they will hear it on the earth. I do not know exactly what they will know on the earth. The nations of the earth get very angry at this announcement. Very, very angry we find in verse 18.*

*Verse 15, “So the seventh angel,”—we know the seventh angel comes after the sixth one. We have had a little parenthesis in chapters 10-11. We are now back to the storyline—“The seventh angel sounded, and there were loud voices in heaven.” There was a prophetic declaration that the kingdoms or empires of this world “have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and forever.” One thing that is important to see is that it is* ***this*** *world that He takes over. He is coming back to take over this world. Some people think when He comes, this world burns up, but in fact He is coming to take over the empires of this earth, to be King of kings over it and to reign for 1000 years.*

*Verse 24 says that the elders in heaven worshiped God because of this prophetic declaration. They were overcome with worship. They said, “We give You thanks because You have taken Your great power and reigned.” God has all the power, and Jesus has all the authority to reign. When it says, “You have taken Your power and reigned,” it means “You are going to exert Your rule in a way that everybody in the world will see it.” He has all the power right now, but He is not exerting it over all the kingdoms. He is allowing the freewill of man to run its course. Of course, there are limitations. They get to commit a lot of sin right now. There is a day when He will exert and fully manifest His power. That is what it means by “You will take Your power and reign.”*

*In verse 18, we see that the nations are really angry with this. The kings know that their empires are going to be taken from them and given to other leaders. There are going to be new leaders over every single nation. The kings are very, very angry with this. In verse 18 somehow they are aware of what is going on. Verse 18 is actually a quote from Psalm 2, which is a very important Psalm. King David gave a prophecy that all the kings of the earth would be angry and that God would take over all the kingdoms of the world. Really John is demonstrating that the political drama unfolding was prophesied in Psalm 2 by David. You want to connect Psalm 2 to this passage.*

*There are several things that are going to happen when this seventh trumpet blows and the announcement is made. Verse 18 says that all the nations are angry and the wrath of God comes in fullness to the earth. This happens in the seven bowls immediately after this.*

*So the next thing that happen is the pouring out of the seven bowls of wrath. “The time of the dead that they should be judged.” All the dead are sentenced at this time. They are declared guilty, and they are sentenced with going to the lake of fire. They do not go to the lake of fire until after the 1000-year reign, but they are sentenced and declared guilty before the tribunal of the King. Their sentence is final. They stay in hell. Hell is not the same thing as the lake of fire. They stay in hell. Hell is like the temporary prison, and the lake of fire is like the federal penitentiary, the permanent one. Everyone in hell gets thrown into the lake of fire at the end of the 1000-year reign.*

*The dead are judged or sentenced, declared guilty, while the Lord will reward His servants the saints. This is the time when the saints are rewarded, at the time of the seventh trumpet. This is the time when the Lord destroys the people who destroy the earth. The people who destroy the earth are obviously many, but it is really focused on the leaders responsible for the policies that destroy the earth. He is really talking about the leaders as the responsible ones here.*

*So there are a number of things that are happening all at the same time. The trumpet has sounded. All the kingdoms are transferred over to the Lord, the dead are sentenced, the saints are rewarded, and those who are responsible for the policies and all the activities that are destroying the earth are themselves destroyed. They come under judgment for that in a very specific way.*

Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the seventh trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

51Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

7…in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His…prophets. (Rev. 10:7)

*Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the seventh trumpet or at the last trumpet. You can say the last trumpet or the seventh trumpet. I believe they are synonymous because there are no more trumpets in the book of Revelation after the seventh trumpet. Not only that, but the seven trumpets are the only numbered series of trumpets in the Bible. Some folks, and I appreciate this, believe that there is the seventh trumpet, and later after that there is a last trumpet when the rapture comes. My opinion is that the rapture* ***does*** *happen at the final trumpet, and it is not later, after the seven trumpets are over, but it* ***actually*** *is the seventh trumpet. That is the final one in the Word of God.*

*Paul said in I Corinthians 5:51, “Behold I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep”—so not every believer is going to die physically. There will be a generation of believers who will not physically die—“but we shall all be changed.” For the word, changed, you can think the word, raptured. Because we are going to be changed—our bodies, in one moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised, and all the believers who are alive on the earth will be changed and raptured in the twinkling of an eye, completely transformed, with a resurrected, immortal body.*

*Revelation 10:7 says that the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet are when the mystery of God is finished. We know from Paul part of the mystery of God is related to all the saints being changed. That is included in the mystery. The mystery is bigger than that, of course. We know it happens when the seventh angel blows the trumpet. That is when the mystery of God comes to completion.*

The saints who are alive at the time of Jesus’ coming will be raptured (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

16The Lord will descend from heaven…with the trumpet of God…17We who are alive… shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

*The Lord will descend from heaven with a trumpet blast. When the trumpet sounds, that is when the Lord comes. When the trumpet, the last trumpet, sounds, believers who are alive on the earth will be caught up. That is what the word, rapture, means—caught up. It is derived from a Latin word. The Bible was translated from Greek to Latin. Many used the Latin translation, and that is where we get the word rapture. When the final trumpet, the trumpet of God, sounds, believers who are alive will be caught up. They will meet the Lord in the air, and they will be with Him forever and forever.*

*That seventh trumpet is chronological; those events are declared and put in place. Then the angel puts a pause on the storyline. There are five chronological sections in which the events unfold one after another in a sequential way. After every chronological section, the angel puts a pause on the storyline, and there is a big parenthesis. It is like he tells John, “Let’s sit down. Let me tell you what is happening behind the scenes. Let me tell you why what you saw is of such severe judgment, and why it is necessary that it happen that way. Let me tell you what is going to happen to the saints during this time.” I call them the angelic explanations. You can call them the parenthetical sections, these pauses on the storyline. I picture John sitting down with the angel and the angel saying, “Let me get you up-to-date on everything and explain why it is so necessary that things are this intense.”*

*Because, I think John is like deer in the headlights, thinking, “I cannot believe what I just saw. This is going to happen in human history? Why does this need to happen?”*

*I can imagine the angel—I am adding a little to this—saying, “John, I am losing you. I am losing you. Pause. Put the storyline on hold. Let me get you caught up. Let me help you process this.” After the angelic explanations or the parentheses, then the storyline is taken off pause. The chronological section begins again.*

1. third angelic explanation (parenthesis): war in the spirit (Rev. 12-14)
   * 1. The third angelic explanation is a parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14). There will be a fierce war in the spirit between Satan and God’s people leading up to the rapture. This section answers why God’s wrath is so severe and requires replacing all the governments on earth. Satan and the Antichrist will violently attack God’s people (Rev. 12-13). Jesus will help the saints (Rev. 14).

*In this third pause or angelic explanation we find out the reason there is going to be such a severity in changing all the governments of the earth. That is pretty severe. It is drastic to change all the governments of the earth in one day. Like, do you know how disruptive that is, Lord? Do you know how many people not only lose their job, but will lose their life in this big exchange? That is really intense. The angel explains, “The reason this is necessary is that there will be a fierce war in the spirit.” Revelation 12 gives us insight into that fierce war between Satan and God’s people. This section, in chapters 12-14, answers why God’s wrath is so severe in requiring that all the governments of the earth be replaced and all the death, all the upheaval, all the disruption that goes with that.*

Revelation 12 describes war in the heavens between Satan and Michael the archangel.

Revelation 13 describes war on the earth between the Antichrist and the saints.

*Revelation 13 describes the war on the earth. The heavenly war breaks out on the earth. Each chapter is focused on one of these big themes within the context of this three-chapter parenthesis.*

Revelation 14 describes seven visions that give insight into the different ways in which the Lord will intervene to empower the Church to walk in great victory.

*In Revelation 14, the angel gives John seven visions so that John gains insight into how God is going to intervene. John is thinking, “Yeah, but what is going to happen to the saints during all this time? What about us? What are You going to say? What are You going to do? How are You going to help? Give me some ideas.” So in Revelation 14 we find seven visions that describe how the Lord is going to intervene to empower the church to walk in great victory. The church* ***will*** *walk in great victory. Many will be martyred. They will lose their lives. Not all the saints will lose their lives by any means. Many will lose their lives. Many will not lose their lives. The saints will be victorious because they will not yield to compromise. They will not cave into fear. They will not cave into lust. They will not give into the Antichrist. They will say, “No, we are not afraid of you. We love Him, we trust His leadership, and we are going with Him.” Chapter 14 gives seven visions that give confidence as to how the Lord will intervene and give clarity as to the victory of the church.*

* + 1. The seven main symbols in the book of Revelation are in this parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14). Daniel used most of these symbols (Dan 7:3-7, 12, 17; 8:4). He described the Antichrist as the Beast with a vast empire (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19-23) supported by ten kings whom he described as the ten horns on the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24; 2:41-42; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

*Remember, within these three chapters, this parenthesis, the “pause button” has been pushed on the storyline while the angel is talking with John for three chapters. There are seven main symbols in the book of Revelation. There are a few more than seven, but seven main ones. All of them are found in these three chapters, at least the seven that I identify as the main symbols.*

* + 1. ***The dragon***:is always symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)

*The dragon is mentioned a number of times and is always symbolic of Satan. The symbols are quite straightforward. You do not need to worry about what is what. They are very, very clear what they are.*

* + 1. ***The first Beast***:is symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)

*The first beast is symbolic of the Antichrist. The first beast. He is only called the first beast once. Then after that, thirty-six times he is called the beast. Mostly he is just called the beast. He is called the first beast on this one occasion in Revelation 13. It is symbolic of the Antichrist.*

* + 1. ***Another Beast***:is symbolic of the False Prophet who is only called, “another Beast” one time. Every other time he is called the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

*Another beast—that is symbolic of the false prophet. The Antichrist and the false prophet are partners in crime in the most severe and perverse way. The false prophet is always called the false prophet, except for the one time he is called another beast. Do not be thrown off by that. In Revelation 13, the Antichrist is the first beast and the false prophet is another beast. For the rest of the book the Antichrist is called the beast and the false prophet is called the false prophet.*

* + 1. ***The seven heads***:theseven empires that persecute Israel are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the revived Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16).

*There are seven heads. This appears several times in the book of Revelation. These seven heads represent seven empires that persecute Israel. I have those seven empires listed. The seven empires that were anti-Semitic that persecuted Israel. One is yet still future.*

* + 1. ***The ten horns***: speaks of a future 10-nation confederation of ten kings who rule simultaneously over their own nation while coming into enthusiastic agreement or partnership together under the Antichrist’s authority (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

*There are ten horns. The ten horns speak of a future ten-nation confederation. There are going to be ten nations or ten kings. They are going to come into a confederation, a unity together. They are in the Middle East or in the Middle East and Europe. There are different theories as to who they are. The Bible does give a couple really direct statements about which nations they are and then a few hints. There is a little debate as to what they are, but it is clear there will be ten nations in the Middle East and Europe that will come together. They will be in unity together and under the authority of the Antichrist. That is, they will be unified, and they will submit their kingdoms to the Antichrist.*

* + 1. ***The Harlot Babylon***: includes the literal, re-built city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) that will be restored and used as a headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as a center of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18; cf. Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51), and will seduce many to sin while also persecuting the saints.
    2. ***The Woman with the Male-child*** *(Jesus)*: The woman is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12:1-5). Satan wars with her offspring who are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:17).

*The male child clearly is Jesus in Revelation 12. The woman is the faithful remnant of Israel throughout redemptive history, from Abraham. Abraham was 4000 years ago, in 2000 BC. He is the first Jewish believer in covenant with God, if you want to use that term. Meaning he was actually a Gentile who came into covenant with God. All of his children through Isaac and Jacob became the Jewish race after him. From him onwards—the faithful remnant of Israel—that is the woman of Revelation 12. We are not going to go into great detail in this because we do not have time tonight. This simple little understanding will give you a grid to help you read through the chapters.*

1. war breaks out in heaven (Rev. 12)
   * 1. War will break out in heaven between Satan and Michael the archangel (Rev. 12:7-12). The result is that Satan will be cast to the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

7War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9The dragon…called the Devil…was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him…12Woe to the inhabitants of the earth…for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath [fury, NIV], because he knows that he has a short time. (Rev. 12:7-12)

*War breaks out in heaven. That is the first part of this parenthesis, this parenthetical section, this angelic explanation. War breaks out in heaven between Satan and Michael. The result is that Satan will be cast to the earth. Can you imagine Satan and all the demons being cast out of the heavenly realm and bound to the earth? He is going to be cast to the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. I do not know that any of us can picture what it will look like. Every single demon that is in the heavenly places—powers and principalities and forces of wickedness—all of them will be grounded and on the earth. There will be more demons, powerful demons, operating on the earth scene and more demonized people at that time than at any time of history.*

*Let’s read the account. Revelation 12:7, “War broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought Satan and Satan and his angels fought back.” There is this war going up in the heavenly realm, in the mid-heavens. “Satan and his angels did not prevail. There was not a place found for them in the heavenly realm any longer.”*

*The Bible describes three heavens by the way. You might say, “A war in heaven? What? I thought God was in heaven.” The Bible describes three heavens. There is the third heaven. That is paradise. 2 Corinthians 12 describes what is called the third heavens or paradise. That is where God’s throne is, His abode. That is the third heavens.*

*There is the first heaven; that is the sky, the atmosphere above us. That is called the heavens all through the Bible. The heavens declare the glory of God. That is talking about the sky and the stars. There is the first heaven, the sky and the stars.*

*There is the mid-heavens; some call it the second heaven. That is where the demonic host operates, and that is where there is this clash of angelic powers with demon powers—in the mid-heavens.*

*It says in verse 8 that Satan and his hosts did not prevail. I guess he has billions of demons; I am assuming there are billions of them. No one knows the number. Verse 8 says that there was not a place for them any longer in the mid-heavens.” Verse 9, “Then the dragon,”—so there is no guesswork; the dragon is the devil. John interprets who the dragon is. We are not guessing who the dragon is in the book of Revelation—“was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out of the heavens to the earth with him.” How intense! All of these powerful principalities and powers grounded on the earth, and their sphere of operation is earthbound. The heavenly realm gives them a place of greater influence and power. Now they are bound. They are really angry.*

*They are so angry that verse 12 says, “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has come down to you,” and you could put in parentheses “against his will.” He does not want to be grounded. He has great anger. It says wrath. Fury, anger, burning rage. Why? Because he knows he only has a short amount of time, which is three and a half years. What happens after that? He is thrown into prison after that. Revelation 21 tells us that the big angel will throw him into prison for 1000 years. Satan knows he is going to prison. He does not want to go to prison. That is on his mind right now—to stay out of prison. He is trying to cause as much trouble as possible to keep the prison sentence from happening.*

* + 1. Some teach that this war in heaven occurred at the cross and that Satan is now confined to the earth. However, we war against Satan’s host operating in the heavenly places in this age.

12We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities…against the rulers of the darkness…against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)

*Some people teach that this casting of Satan out of heaven happened at the cross; some really good Bible teachers teach it this way. I want to honor all the different opinions of people who love Jesus and love the Word. There are so many different opinions on the end times. We have room to dialogue, fellowship with, and learn from each other. I do not think we can say that enough. So it is a really popular teaching that Satan was cast out of heaven at the cross. To me it is not reasonable that Satan is bound to the earth and is not in the heavenly places right now. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6 that Satan is in the heavenly places all through the church age. This casting out of heaven is yet a future, literal event; it is yet to come.*

* + 1. One of unique dynamics in the end times is that Satan and all his demons will be cast to the earth (Rev. 12:9). He will give his throne to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). Multitudes of demons in the bottomless pit now will be released onto the earth (Rev. 9:3, 16).

2The Dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne … (Rev. 13:2)

*So one of the unique dynamics in the end times is that Satan and all of his demons will be on the earth. It says here in Revelation 13:2 that Satan the dragon will give the Antichrist his throne. Satan is going to be on the earth. He is saying, “I need a human to work through. I am grounded right now down to the earth. I need to exert my power into the human realm through humans.” He is going to give his full power and his throne to the Antichrist.*

1. the End-Time persecution of Satan against God’s people (Rev. 12:13-17)

13Now when the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [remnant of Israel] who gave birth to the male Child [Jesus]. 14But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [3½ years], from the presence of the serpent [Satan]. 15So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth [persecution] like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood [destroyed]. 16But the earth [natural elements touched by God’s power] helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [end-time Church], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:13-17).

*The implications of this are staggering. I believe it is very important for the body of Christ to know what the Bible says about these hours. Some think, “Well, it is just going to be no big deal. It will take care of itself.”*

*I say, “Just take care of itself? I think you want to be prepared. If you are not alive at that time, you certainly want to prepare your children and grandchildren because they might be alive at that time. If not, they need to be preparing their children and grandchildren.” Can you imagine the turmoil of the earth with the whole demonic realm on the earth operating in great rage? I mean all the chaos and the lawlessness in the nations and the murder and the sorcery and the demon worship that will be happening. The perversion will be beyond anything we can imagine right now. It is something that we want to understand from the biblical point of view.*

*Right after the war in the heavens, John went on to say in Revelation 12: 13 that when Satan saw he had been cast to the earth, he went after the woman, the remnant of Israel. He went after the woman, the remnant that gave birth to the male child, back earlier in chapter 12. We skipped some of that. When Satan is cast to the earth, his rage is going to be fixated on Israel. He wants to destroy the nation of Israel—the woman, the remnant of Israel, who gave birth to the male child who clearly is Jesus.*

*Verse 14 says, “The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, to fly into the wilderness to her place.” That is symbolic of course—being given wings of a great eagle is clearly symbolic. She will fly into the wilderness to her place where she will be nourished or fed for three and a half years. When it says time, times and half a time—a time is one year. Times is two years and half a time is a half of a year. That is pretty easy to prove. I am not going to do it right now. I have it in some of the other notes. That is a really common understanding of time, times and half a time. She will be nourished for three and a half years, hidden from the presence of Satan. The serpent will spew water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be totally destroyed or carried away by the flood. He is after the total destruction of the state of Israel.*

*You can see right now the anti-Semitism that is rising up in the earth. It is growing in a way that is observable in the last number of years and is increasing right now. It is going to increase far beyond anything that has happened up to now, because that is the demonic agenda. Verse 16 says, “But the earth helped the woman.” It is not the earth in one sense, but it is God touching the elements of the earth in a supernatural way so that, “the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth.” The earth helps the woman. I have some notes online to develop that a little more if you want to read that.*

*Verse 17 says, “The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went off to make war with the rest of her offspring,” because part of the remnant of Israel, not all of the Israel, but part of the remnant of Israel is in the wilderness. Just a portion. Someone might ask, “Who?” I do not know who they are. I do not know how they get there. I am sure they will get there. The dragon, Satan who is enraged at Israel, the remnant of Israel, went to make war with the rest of the offspring of this woman; the rest would be the end-time, born-again, Gentile church. It is those who keep the commands of God* ***and*** *have the testimony of Jesus. It is clearly born-again believers that it is talking about. Born-again believers are on the earth at this time. The rage of Satan is coming against them.*

* + 1. When Satan sees he is confined to earth, he will persecute Israel and the saints (Rev. 12:13, 17).

*When Satan sees he is confined to the earth, he will persecute Israel and the saints. The woman is given two wings of a great eagle. I have a little bit on the eagle here, just a little bit there.*

* + 1. The woman or remnant of Israel is given two wings of a great eagle. This speaks of at time when God will miraculously deliver, protect, and provide for her in the wilderness. God manifested the strength, swiftness, and attentiveness of an eagle to care for Israel in the time of the Exodus from Egypt. He continued His care for the next forty years, providing manna from the sky and water from a rock. He protected them from the hostility of neighboring nations.

4You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings… (Ex. 19:4)

11As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, 12So the Lord alone led him… (Deut. 32:11-12)

* + 1. Israel will flee into the wilderness to *her place* where she is *nourished* and protected from the presence of Satan for 3½ years (Rev. 12:14). Satan will seek to destroy all Israel (Rev. 12:15).

1. Satan wars through the Antichrist and False Prophet (Rev. 13)

*We are going to move on to chapter 13. We just did a quick glance at chapter 12 about the war in the heavens. That war in the heavens is when Satan comes down with all of his demons to the earth. They are going after Israel. God has an element of supernatural protection for part of Israel, not all of Israel. There are a number of other passages where Israel is being attacked in a very fierce way and many of them are dying. You find that in Zechariah 12-14. It tells the group of the Jews who are not in the wilderness area. I do not know how God determines which ones are taken away to the wilderness and which ones stay in Jerusalem. Many Jews will be in Jerusalem in the heat of the conflict dying and in a place of battle against the armies of the Antichrist surrounding the city of Jerusalem.*

* + 1. Satan will seek to destroy Israel and the Church (Rev. 12:17). In Revelation 13, Satan will give his authority to the Antichrist to complete his plan to destroy Israel and the Church (Rev. 13:2). Revelation 13 describes the resources that the Antichrist will have to war against God’s people.

*Satan is down on the earth. He gives his authority to the Antichrist because he wants the Antichrist to continue in his rage to destroy Israel and the church. Satan gives his authority to the Antichrist, and the Antichrist’s mandate is complete—Satan plans to destroy Israel and to destroy the church.*

* + 1. The Antichrist will be a world leader who has a political, military, and economic alliance with ten nations giving him the largest empire and the most powerful army in history. The Antichrist will be fully human, yet fully demonized with Satan’s authority (Rev. 13:2).

3The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority…4They worshiped the dragon…and worshiped the Beast, saying, “Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?”… 7It was granted to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome [kill] them. Authority was given him over every tribe…and nation. (Rev. 13:3-7)

*We find in Revelation 13:3 that the dragon gave the Antichrist his power, his throne, and his authority. The people of the nations worshiped the dragon—that is Satan—and they worshiped the beast. Antichrist worship is Satan worship. The Antichrist and Satan are not the same. The Antichrist is fully indwelt by Satan or the Antichrist is fully demonized. I will say it that way. Satan is a different person from the Antichrist, though he fully empowers him and some people even say the Antichrist embodies him. It is hard to know exactly. We know this man, the Antichrist, is fully human, but he is fully demonized as well. He is different from Satan. He is Satan’s ambassador, so to speak. “They worship the dragon,” verse 4, or Satan; that is Satan worship. “They worship the beast;” that is Antichrist worship, which is the same.*

*The nations will say, “Who is like the Antichrist?” In other words, “Who is able to successfully make war against him and prevail?” That is the question. The Antichrist will be so powerful that he will appear invincible. It only looks that way, for he* ***will*** *be destroyed after three and a half years. For a while the nations will believe he is invincible. It is a lie. He will be destroyed.*

*Verse 7 says, “It was granted to the Antichrist at this time to make war with the saints.” The saints will be here when the Antichrist is down here making war, and he will overcome the saints. He will overcome, but not all the saints. He will overcome many, but not all. Overcome means he will kill them. It does not mean he will cause them to backslide. Because in Revelation 12—we skipped the verse—in Revelation 12:11, the saints overcome the Antichrist. Which way is it? Does the Antichrist overcome the saints or do they overcome him? Which is which? The Antichrist and Satan overcome the saints physically, but the saints overcome them spiritually because the saints do not yield to their intimidation. The saints do not yield to their temptation. The saints do not yield to their threats. Despite martyrdom, they do not yield to Satan. They are actually victorious because they refused to yield. They are bold and strong in love.*

* + 1. The Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand that the whole earth worship him as he seeks to assert his authority over the nations. He will have authority and worshippers in all nations, *yet will not totally dominate them all.* There will be nations who resist him (Dan. 11:40-45; Rev. 16:14).
    2. The Antichrist will seek to kill anyone who refuses to worship him (Rev. 13:8, 12, 15). This will lead billions of people to engage in Satan worship.

8All who dwell on the earth will worship him [Antichrist], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

*The Antichrist will seek to kill anyone who refuses to worship him. He will not kill everyone who refuses, but he will seek to. He will be on a rampage across the nations. By the way, I believe the Antichrist will not dominate every nation. I believe he will have a presence in every nation. He will have an influence, but he will not dominate every nation. It is very clear. There are a number of passages, particularly in Daniel 11, where it is clear that some nations are resisting the Antichrist right to the end. They are not yielding to him. There will be resisting nations. The ten nations for sure will be committed to the Antichrist, but beloved, there are about 200 nations depending on how you count. Approximately 200. Some say 232; some say 192. That is what the United Nations says because they define nationhood in a stricter way. Say approximately 200 nations. We know ten of them will be under the Antichrist. We know many will be dominated. Is it ten, twenty, thirty, fifty? Is it one hundred? I do not know. We know some nations resist until the very, very end.*

*Then, at the very end, after the seventh trumpet, he gets all the kings of the earth finally in unity during the final days—literal days—before Jesus destroys them all. When the Bible talks about the Antichrist in all the nations, do not imagine he fully dominates every nation. That is not what the Bible makes clear. I think he will have an influence and a presence in all the nations, but he will be resisted as well in many of them.*

* + 1. The False Prophet will be the leader of a future worldwide religious network that will be devoted to causing all the nations to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11-18).

11I saw another beast [False Prophet]…he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11)

*The false prophet will be the leader of a worldwide religious network. He will be devoted to causing all the nations to worship the Antichrist. The false prophet—his goal is to do the bidding of the Antichrist, to make him the supreme leader of the earth, worshiped by as many as he can manipulate, force, and pressure to worship the Antichrist. It says in verse 11, “I saw another beast,” which is the false prophet. This is the only time the false prophet is called another beast. Every other time he is called the false prophet. “He had two horns like a lamb,” so he will appear to be peace-loving, like a lamb, “But he spoke like a dragon.” He will be bold and fierce. He will be fearless and fierce as well. Bold like a dragon, but he will appear to have an agenda that is like a lamb, an agenda that is peace loving.*

* + 1. John highlighted three strategies the False Prophet will use to get the nations to worship the Beast.
    2. First, he will be a prophet with a message. His demonically empowered *public speeches* will be confirmed by great miracles that will deceive the masses (Rev. 13:12-14).

12He exercises all the authority of the first Beast…and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast…13He performs great signs…14He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs… (Rev. 13:12-14)

*First, the false prophet* ***will*** *be a prophet. That is why he is called a prophet. He is a messenger. Intrinsic to the false prophet is that he is a preacher. He will proclaim oracles that he claims are from God. His demonically-empowered public speeches will be confirmed with great miracles to deceive the masses. He will make these public speeches before the nations. The first person that comes to mind to me and to many when they read this is Adolf Hitler. They said he had power when he spoke. People were mystified. Many people, who were against him when they were out of his presence, went to the mass meetings where hundreds of thousands gathered and they testified later after World War II was over, “We were swept away by him. When we got in his presence and he presented his agenda, it captivated us.” They did not know how he did it.*

*Of course the false prophet will be far more powerful than Adolf Hitler, but he will use public speeches similarly. He will give them, and there will be great power on them. It will be demonic power, and then he will do signs and wonders to back them up. He will say, “Watch this.” He will do all these great healings and miracles. The masses will say, “He must be from God. Look at the miracles he is doing.”*

* + 1. Second, he will establish a worship system related to the abomination of desolation (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:3-4). An image or stature of the Antichrist will be set up in the temple. It will be a demonically empowered statue that appears to breath and speak (Rev. 13:14-15).

14Telling those who dwell on earth to make an image [statue] to the Beast…15He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:14-15)

*Secondly, he will establish a worship system that is related to the abomination of desolation. He will not only give public speeches; he will promote a worldwide worship system. This worship system is related to the abomination of desolation. Let’s read about the worship system first. Revelation 13:14, “He will tell those who dwell on the earth”—this will be one of his big messages—“to make a statue to the Antichrist or to the beast.” The false prophet will tell the nations, “Make a statue to the Antichrist.”*

*In verse 15, the most remarkable thing happens. “He was granted”—the false prophet—“to give breath to the statue.” How can a statue breathe? I do not know if the statue actually breathes. It is so vague, but it certainly appears to breath. There is this demonic miracle where the statue appears to breathe or does breathe. I do not know. I cannot imagine it. I do not know how it all that works. That is beyond my pay grade.*

*The image of the beast, this statue, would not only breathe, but the statue would speak. It would speak on its own initiative is the idea. The statue would give orders. The statue would speak and breathe. A demonic, miraculous statue. The orders were, “Kill everyone who does not worship the Antichrist.”*

*The people say, “Well, if that statue breathes and talks and gives us orders, we better obey it.” The nations will be terrified by this statue.*

The abomination of desolation will be a series of abominable or evil events. They will be an abomination to God that results in global desolation or destruction. The abomination will be the Antichrist’s claim to be God, along with his demand that all worship him.

15When you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place…16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Mt. 24:15-16)

3The son of perdition [Antichrist] 4opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God…sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thes. 2:3-4)

*This worship system will be related to the abomination of desolation. The abomination of desolation is a term that Jesus used in Matthew 24. As a matter of fact, the only political or religious event that Jesus pointed to is found here in verse 15. Jesus said, “When you see the abomination of desolation take place”—go back and study the book of Daniel—“when you see it take place, then you know the Antichrist is right there and the whole end-time drama has begun.” Jesus said the abomination of desolation was absolutely top priority for us to understand and for us to recognize when the abomination of desolation takes place.*

*Some of you might be new tonight and you wonder, “What on earth is the abomination of desolation? I can hardly say that term! What does that mean?” If you were to Google it, you would get a whole bunch of information on it, and probably a lot of it would be somewhat in the same vein, probably a good portion of it, having never gone myself to Google to look at it. Most Bible teachers that teach on it teach it in the general same vein. On the website you can find the Daniel series I gave last summer. I did a whole session for an hour on the abomination of desolation and broke it all down. Jesus said the abomination of desolation is the number one event to recognize, that you would know you were in that final drama when you see this event happen. It is something the church really does need to know.*

*The abomination of desolation in one sentence is when the Antichrist does a series of abominable or evil deeds. The abomination is the deeds of the Antichrist. They are an abomination to God. They cause desolation or you could put the word destruction. It is the abominable deeds of the Antichrist that leads to desolation or destruction against nations. The great abominable deed that the Antichrist does is given right in 2 Thessalonians 2. Paul the apostle described it. The Antichrist claims to be God. That is the great abomination. He goes into the Jerusalem temple; the Jewish temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem in the future. Paul said, “When that temple is built, this man will walk into the Jewish temple, sit in the holy of holies and say, ‘I am God. I am the God of Israel. I am the God of the nations.’” That is the great abomination that will lead to desolation. Millions, maybe billions, will believe him and worship him as the true god. That abomination will bring great destruction all over the place.*

The image of the Beast may combine cutting-edge technology and demonic elements that cause the image to appear to breathe and speak. The image may be a high-tech hologram that looks and sounds like the Antichrist. Some suggest that there may be many regional Antichrist worship centers with a duplicate image of the Antichrist that is connected to the “primary” image in Jerusalem by technology, the result being a global network of local “Antichrist worship sanctuaries” that may each include a hologram of the Antichrist.

The law will require all to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12, 15). Those who refuse will be guilty of the death penalty. He will use the power of the state to kill all who resist him.

*The Antichrist will change the laws. He will have the power of the state behind him. The law will require everybody to worship the Antichrist. Those who refuse will be guilty of the death penalty. It will be a crime against the state to refuse to worship the Antichrist. The penalty will be the death penalty. That is what people will be guilty of because the nations will be saying, “Wait a second! This is the only man who has ever brought peace to the nations, the man who is bringing the answer, who is unifying the earth by force, but he* ***is*** *unifying the earth. If you are against him, then you are against the goodwill of the earth.” That is why it will be the death penalty. It will be seen as a crime against the state.*

* + 1. Third, he will establish a worldwide economic system that forces the nations to worship the Antichrist by the *mark of the Beast* put on their hand or forehead to force everyone to declare publicly their loyalty to the Antichrist. Those refusing this mark will not be able to buy or sell.

16He causes all…to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead…17that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark…18His number is 666. (Rev. 13:16-18)

1. Jesus will supernaturally help the church come to victory (Rev. 14)

*We are coming to the third chapter of the parenthesis. Remember, there are three chapters in this parenthesis. Chapter 12, war in the heavens. Chapter 13, war on the earth. Chapter 14, this is where Jesus says, “I am going to intervene and help you. I am going to intervene and help the people of God.”*

* + 1. The purpose of this part of this parenthetical section is to give insight into the certainty of victory for the saints and to give understanding regarding why God’s wrath is so severe in replacing all the governments of the earth in the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15).

*The purpose of this parenthetical section, parenthesis, or this angelic explanation is to give insight into the certainty of victory for the saints. When you read these messages here, when you read these seven visions, you walk away with a certainty of victory. The people of God win. The people of the Antichrist lose. These seven visions really give strength. They are far bigger than us taking three or four minutes to go over them in a snapshot kind of way.*

* + 1. God promised to intervene to help the saints (Rev. 14:1-20). Note three sections in this chapter. In the first section, the 144,000 first fruits of Israel will be a model of victory for others (Rev. 14:1-5). In the second section, we see four proclamations that the Spirit will anoint (Rev. 14:6-13). In the third section, we see a two-fold harvest of salvation and judgment (Rev. 14:14-20).

1. first section: the 144,000 first fruits of Israel (Rev. 14:1-5)
   * 1. John saw Jesus standing on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 singers (Rev. 14:1-5). These 144,000 singers will be a model of victory in the midst of persecution as they provide great strength to the Church by their prophetic singing that releases God’s power. These singers will prophesy with power. They will be sealed or protected from judgment (Rev. 7:4-8).

1Behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. 2I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3They [the harpists] sang as it were a new song before the throne…and no one could learn that song except the 144,000…4These are the ones who were not defiled with [immoral] women, for they are virgins [celibates]. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes…5In their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault [compromise]… (Rev. 14:1-5)

*The first section is the 144,000. They will be prophetic singers. Can you imagine 144,000 gifted, anointed singers? I do not mean 1000. This is 144,000 Jewish singers singing like King David sang, the new songs from heaven. The worship movement will not be limited to the 144,000. There will be a spirit of prophecy and prophetic singing covering the earth, as Isaiah 42 makes very clear. They will be singing in the mountains, the islands, and the coastlands. Read Isaiah 42:10-13 describing the Second Coming in answer to the prophetic worship movement all around the earth.*

*These 144,000 Jewish prophetic singers will be a model of victory. In other words, when we read the power that God will give them, that gives insight into how much God is going to help people. Of course they demonstrate the ultimate amount of His help—the 144,000 and the two witnesses of course. Whatever God does in those two, He will not do exactly the same measure in others, but He will give that kind of anointing in a lesser degree to the body of Christ. This is how willing God is to break in and help the body of Christ.*

* + 1. They will be deeply dedicated to Jesus as seen by the five virtues stated in verses 4-5.

1. second section: four proclamations the Spirit will anoint (Rev. 14:6-13)
   * 1. John identified four promises or messages that must be boldly proclaimed (Rev. 14:6-13).   
        I believe that the Spirit will release power to confirm these messages to strengthen His people.

*The second section of Revelation 14 has four prophetic proclamations. John identified four messages or four promises that have to be boldly proclaimed. When these four messages are proclaimed, I believe the Spirit will back it up with signs, wonders, and power, though I do not mean every time. These four messages are really top priority on the Holy Spirit’s agenda. We do not have to wait until those final years leading to the Lord’s return. Those four messages are important, I believe, even now as the decades are unfolding and we are getting closer and closer to the Lord’s return. Nobody knows when; nobody knows the day or the hour. It might be in our lifetime. It might not be in our lifetime. As we get closer to it, these four messages will be very, very important.*

* + 1. ***The message of the certainty of gospel being preached in all nations*** (Rev. 14:6-7): There will be angelic assistance and power to succeed in preaching the Gospel to all nations in the presence of great hostility (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9).

6I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—7saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” (Rev. 14:6-7)

*The first message is the message of the certainty that the gospel will be preached to all nations. The gospel will be preached. There is certainty. This message makes it very, very clear. It will happen, even with angelic assistance.*

* + 1. ***The message of the certainty of the judgment on Harlot Babylon*** (Rev. 14:8): The proclamation of the message of the total defeat of the Harlot Babylon will strengthen the Church (Rev. 17-18).

8Another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8)

*The second message is the certainty of judgment on the harlot Babylon, the proclamation of the total defeat of harlot Babylon. Why is this an important message? Because many people will be tempted and in fact will join that system. We can say with boldness and power, “That system is bankrupt. It will not prevail. Do not join it. It will be totally defeated.” We can say that boldly, even though for a short moment it will look invincible and it will look glorious.*

* + 1. ***The message of the certainty of eternal judgment*** (Rev. 14:9-11): This message is for those who accept the mark of the Beast. There will be an anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming on all who worship the Antichrist. Confidence that the Antichrist will surely be judged will embolden the saints to resist his deceptive allurements and terrifying threats.

9Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast… 10he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone… 11The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast…and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (Rev. 14:9-11)

*There is the third message, which is the message of the certainty of eternal judgment. Why is the message of eternal judgment an important message? After all, it is really bad news for the people receiving it. It is a message that needs to be preached with tears to believers or to going-to-be-believers, to those who end up saying yes to the Lord when they hear about the certainty of the destruction of saying no to Jesus and yielding to the temporary pleasure and the temporary perks of the Antichrist. When we proclaim—“we” meaning the body of Christ—the certain eternal judgment of those who go there, then people fear God and say, “You know what, I am not going there.” It really emboldens the church. It makes the church strong if this message is preached.*

*There is a real move today to shy away from the subject of God’s judgment, particularly His eternal judgment, and to preach it in a way that makes it seem not real. The element of the fear of God is taken out of this message. The leadership of heaven—angels, Holy Spirit, the Father, the Son—insist this message will be proclaimed in that hour. I do not want to wait until then to proclaim it. The church can proclaim it now and not wait until that hour.*

* + 1. ***The message of eternal rewards for faithfulness* *(Rev. 14:13)***:This will strengthen His people.

12Here is the patience [perseverance] of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” (Rev. 14:12-13)

*Not only must the eternal judgment be proclaimed, but also the message of eternal rewards for faithfulness. The fourth message is about the eternal rewards for faithfulness. In other words, it is worth it. Jesus is worth our faithfulness. He is worth it; that is enough. Everyone who perseveres and loses so much in the conflict, every single thing they gave up, they will get back a hundredfold. The return is beyond a hundredfold. The measure of reward, the amount of return is so strong, and this message must be preached with clarity and with certainty.*

1. third section: harvest of salvation and judgment (Rev. 14:14-20)
   * 1. John saw two end-time harvests: of souls (Rev. 14:14-16) and of judgment (Rev. 14:17-20).

14Behold…One like the Son of Man [Jesus], having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him… “Thrust in Your sickle and reap…for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” (Rev. 14:14-15)

*Remember there are three sections in Revelation 14. I just went through the 144,000, and the four proclamations. The third section is the final harvest. It is a harvest of judgment and a harvest of souls. Both harvests are going to come. There are two harvests. There is going to be the harvest of the nations. The church will come to maturity. I believe a billion-plus will come into the kingdom.*

*There will be a harvest of judgment too. Sin also will become ripe, not only righteousness. God will bring a harvest, meaning He is going to cause the consequences of those sinful actions also to come to fruition as well. That is what I mean by the word harvest. That is how that term is being used here. There will be sure consequences. There will be a full harvest of souls, but there will be a full harvest of wickedness. Wickedness will come to maturity, and it will be completely destroyed. It will be harvested and tossed aside as the tares and burned in the fire. That is a little snapshot of Revelation 12-14.*

* + 1. All the kings of the earth will be gathered into one geographic area (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2; cf. Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:14). Jesus will kill them in “this winepress” (Rev. 19:19-21). A winepress was associated with the celebration of the harvest.
    2. The harvest of judgment will result in a river of blood will run nearly 200 miles or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south (Israel is 160 miles from north to south). Isaiah saw the Messiah marching to Jerusalem from Jordan (Bozrah in Edom) in the south (Isa. 63:1-6).

17Another angel came…having a sharp sickle. 18Another angel came out from the altar…cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” 19So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20The winepress was trampled…and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [200 miles]. (Rev. 14:17-20)

*You do not ever really want to do all three of those chapters in forty-six minutes. If you do, you will end up talking like this, talking as fast as I talk. So there you have it. Let’s stand.*