

## **Message# 131 - 3-14-2021 - Revisiting the Book of Revelation - The Firstfruits**

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Good morning everyone. I'm glad that you are taking the time to listen to the message this morning. I pray that you will be encouraged, strengthened and blessed by what you hear!

I have some sad news to share this morning. There is a couple that had contacted me regarding moving to this area to begin building Ecclesia. We were excited about the possibilities. They were coming to the Conference, then planning to put their home up for sale - then move this way. But, this week, the Father decided to call David Switzer home. Please be in prayer for Lorna. If any of you would like to share condolences with Lorna, contact me by email and I'll share her information.

I don't know any either details other than that David passed away this past week.

Kingdom Conference 2021! is now 4 days away. We've had a couple cancellations - so there's room on campus if you are planning on coming. Let us know as soon as you can.

We will be meeting again at the Maranatha Bible Camp, Everton, Missouri - it's about 30 miles northwest of Springfield. Opening day is the 18th of what the world calls March. Check-in is any time after 1:00pm that day and the first event will be dinner at 5:00pm. We've got lots of special music planned this time. Randy Marshall, his young ones, along with the Christopher's grandchildren will be leading the congregational singing. Then Nancy Baracker and her children have special music planned. Rebecca will be here again with her awesome talent - Taylor will be here singing. This should be a fantastic meeting. We are really looking forward to it.

With the Conference coming up this next weekend, I don't know exactly what will be happening with Missouri Liberty Radio because Sam and Trish are going to be with us at the Conference. He also told me that FM signal for the station is going to be changing this weekend. That will not affect the stream which is how most of our listeners hear us - but I'm pretty sure the station itself will be down for a while next weekend.

Even if it wasn't, more than likely there would be a replay next weekend - then we'll get back to our regular broadcasts the following weekend. Lord willing, we will have all the Conference messages available on the website - hopefully the week after the Conference is over.

Last fall - it was basically Ted and I speaking - with some of the other men speaking during the Men's Prayer Meeting in the morning. This time we will have 7 different speakers - plus - the Ladies are getting together for at least one special meeting.

We are really hoping for some great things to come from this Conference - as we move towards Ecclesia and being the people that God wants us to be. That being - the people of the Commonwealth of Israel - so named in the Scriptures.

I would ask you to be in prayer for those who are traveling. Some are coming from as far away as Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin, Texas, California, - well - from all over. So please be in prayer for safe traveling for those heading this way.

In last week's message - well - in all the messages I preach - what I'm trying to do is equip you with the knowledge of the Scriptures that continually provides the absolute proof that we need when we make the claim - ALL Bible prophecy has been fulfilled. Why? Because when we realize that ALL Bible prophecy has been fulfilled - then we are forced to come to grips with what it all means.

What difference does it make? Why does it matter if All Bible prophecy has been fulfilled? If I had a dime for everytime someone has asked me that in the past 35 years - I'd be rich - with dimes at least - for whatever that's worth - which will certainly be a whole lot less soon - considering how much quote "money" those nutjobs in Washington are just creating out of thin air. And of course, if we were doing what we are supposed to be doing - that is - being our own separate nation - things like mass insanity from other nations - would not be affecting us like they are and will continue to as long as we are such a part of their nation.

But it does matter. It makes all the difference in the world as to whether All Bible prophecy has been fulfilled or not. If it has - then Christ is King - right now. And not only that - He is the Only King. He is the Only God Ordained Ruler in the world since the New World began in the first century.

Before we get into today's message, I want you to look at something. Go back to Revelation 14. That's where we ended last week. In fact, let's just get right into it. Start in verse 1 of Revelation 14 - continuing our series Revisiting Revelation for the purpose of helping us be strong in the faith once delivered to the saints. Verse 1.

[1] And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an

hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Now, you and I both know - because we remember from the days of playing quote "church" - we were told that these 144,000 of Revelation 14 have not yet been revealed in the world. Some, of course, have been saying we have been on the verge of their revealing - for me - I've heard it since the 1960s - then the 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s, 2010s and now - 2020s - the 144,000 of Revelation 14 are soon to be revealed as being on this earth in our generation. That's what we've been told all our lives.

David Jeremiah is one of the most popular quote "evangelical" again quote "preachers" in the world today. I want you to listen as I read to you what David Jeremiah says about these 144,000 from Revelation 14. Quote:

<https://davidjeremiah.blog/the-144000-in-the-book-of-revelation/>

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## The 144,000 in the Book of Revelation



389



4



393  
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Like many of the topics in Revelation, there is much mystery surrounding the 144,000 mentioned in chapters 7 and 14. Who are they? What is their significance? What will be their objective? Will they be protected? Will they have any effect on the lost people of the Last Days? Although we do not know everything about the events that will take place and those involved, the Bible does reveal some details about the 144,000. Let's take a look at what the Bible says as we discover the traits of the coming Jewish evangelists who will preach to the world during the Tribulation. If twelve Spirit-filled Jews turned their world upside down, imagine the magnitude of the revival that will take place during the Tribulation!

Right away. There is no doubt at all, he is saying that these 144,000 JEWS - the coming jewish evangelists are going to preach to the world during the tribulation. Friends, no, of course not, we do not know all the details concerning these 144,000 from Revelation 14:1 - but I can absolutely tell you this - they are not what the 501(c)(3) government

preacher is trying to get you to believe. So far, every single thing - at least from this 501(c)(3) government preacher - every single thing he has said so far - is diametrically opposed to what the Scriptures say regarding the 144,000.

Specifically because he is saying they are yet to be revealed in the future. Back to the article.

## What Happens Before the Lord Returns?

Perhaps, if you go to an evangelical church you may have heard your pastor, or some visiting teacher, say that before Jesus Christ comes back to this earth there is going to be a great revival and people are going to come back to the Lord. Now all of us wishes that would happen, and perhaps it will in a small way. But there is no indication in the Scripture that we should expect such a thing.

In fact, the Bible teaches us the exact opposite. The Bible says that before the Lord returns to take us to heaven there is going to be a falling away from the faith and if you look at the statistics for mainline churches today, it seems like we might be in the beginning of that because a lot of people who used to go church, a lot of people who used to be religious, have pushed away and churches are struggling.

I see. That's what the great falling away is? People not going to quote "church." I will tell you that before there is any type of real turning to Christ, to the Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Christ of the Bible - there will have to be a huge falling away from quote "church."

If Bible prophecy - ALL Bible prophecy has not been fulfilled - then what is left? The despicable, Godless, wicked, evil doctrine of "church and state." Both of those organizations exist for the sole purpose of keeping people from finding the true Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ. They exist to keep people enslaved to men's little g "governments." And - they are - yes - they are taking the Bible - albeit a twisted, demented twisting of it - but they are taking the Bible to make their case that God has ordained the little g "governments" of the world to exist and all men everywhere are to submit to whatever little g "government" that may have been physically, geographically been born around.

If All Bible prophecy has not been fulfilled, then the Kingdoms of this world are yet to become the Kingdoms of our Lord - something called "Satan" or the "devil" or the "beast" rules this present world - as Jesus is nothing but a future coming, jewish messiah. And friends - that makes us the most miserable people in existence today. It

makes us deceived about everything we claim to believe. It makes a group of people in the middle east - who do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah - it makes them the apple of God's eye - God's Chosen People - and makes us the ugly step-sister not even worthy of the scraps at the table.

Well, it matters not whether anyone else in the world gets it today, the Son of God did come to this earth, He did walk on this earth in the first century, He preached His coming Kingdom, He was executed by the state at the beckon of the preachers - but He arose again victoriously over death, Hell and the grave - He ascended into the Heavens for a brief period to time - and He returned in flaming fire taking vengeance on those that killed Him, that persecuted the saints - and when He finished that - He sat down at the right of the Father to forever be the King of kings and Lord of lords, the One True Potentate and King.

The entire world today is living in rebellion to the King and look what they are doing to themselves.

But we do not have to go with the flow because He has given us the power to become the Sons of God and Rule and Reign with Him - if we would just take the free gift and walk in it. That's right now. It's a world right now - with a nation right now called the commonwealth of Israel - and there is absolutely nothing jewish about it. It's a nation built on the finished work of Jesus Christ - He being the Chief Cornerstone - and the foundations being the 12 apostles who gave their lives for the work of that Kingdom.

The teachings of people like David Jeremiah - who are 501(c)(3) government agents - that's what they are - it's not hard to see it - they are the religious arm of the state - and they are in place to teach men that the book of Revelation is yet to be fulfilled. If the book was fulfilled - then Jesus would be King. Plain and simple. We wouldn't be having the discussions we are having. Christ would be King. But they HAVE to teach the book of Revelation as unfulfilled - because they only want Christ to be a coming jewish messiah. That way the nation-states, the system of "church and state" remains the status quo.

His article continues.

(Below)

# The Spiritual Revival During the Darkest Time

Listen to this report filed by John in the seventh chapter of Revelation: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands" ([Revelation 7:9](#)). What a wonderful picture that is!

The Bible says so many people are going to **come to Christ** during that time that you don't even have any way to number them: "A great multitude which no one could number." And they represent all of the nations and tribes and the peoples and the tongues from all over the earth. The harvest from the great revival of the 144,000 witnesses. And that is going to be something you know that we'll be able to observe in heaven. This is, I believe, the fulfillment of this promise of Jesus given in His Olivet Discourse. Jesus said the Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come.

Ladies and gentlemen, one of these days there is going to be this massive spiritual return to God during one of the darkest times on planet earth.

Let me throw this in again. Even the 501(c)(3) preacher says the book of Revelation is seen in Matthew 24.

Really? The harvest from the great revival of the 144,000 witnesses is future?

Keep your finger here in Revelation 14 and turn back with me to Matthew chapter 13. We are going to read the entire chapter. David Jeremiah, the guy preaches to thousands and thousands - says that the harvest of Revelation 14 is yet future. Matthew 13, verse 1. Remember I told you weeks ago that you can pretty much open every chapter of the book of Revelation, then go back into Matthew 24, Luke 21-23 and other passages in the last 27 books of the Bible to find other references? Well, here we go. Verse 1. We're looking for the great harvest.

- [1] The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.
- [2] And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.
- [3] And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;
- [4] And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

- [5] Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:
- [6] And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.
- [7] And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
- [8] But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
- [9] Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

It's very obvious it's Jesus the one sowing the seed. It's His message.

- [10] And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?
- [11] He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
- [12] For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.
- [13] Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.
- [14] And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:
- [15] For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
- [16] But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.
- [17] For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Did you catch that? Did you hear what He said to them? He said that many prophets - those were Old World prophets and many righteous men - Old World Bible heroes - those men - they - when they were prophesying - when they were talking - they were talking about the days of the first century. They were talking about the days in which the Messiah walked on the earth. It was all about the first century. The times that the prophets foretold, the times that the righteous men in the Old World looked for - those

times were right then. That's what Christ said to them.

We've all been told - all our lives while playing quote "church" - the prophets - Daniel - Isaiah - Jeremiah - Ezekiel - Joel - Malachi - those guys were all talking about a time period thousands of years past the time of Christ in the first century. NO THEY WEREN'T. Christ nailed it down right here.

For verily I say unto you,

That's Jesus to His disciples - right then.

That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

For these be the days of vengeance, when ALL Things which are written are fulfilled.

That's what Christ said. It was ALL fulfilled in the first century. Verse 18.

**[18]** Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

**[19]** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

There it is again. It's all about the Kingdom. It's all about the King. All the prophets, all the righteous men in the Old World - looked for the King and the Kingdom and there He was.

**[20]** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

**[21]** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

There's your falling away.

This tribulation - is the same tribulation talked about in Matthew 24. It's the same tribulation talked about in I Thessalonians. It's the same tribulation talked about in the



book of Revelation. It's all the same. It's all talking about the same thing. The Bible is not hard - unless you start taking this saying and that saying, and this prophecy and that prophecy - and trying to force them into all different times in history.

It's all about the first century. It's all about the time in which the Messiah came to this earth.

[22] He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

[23] But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

[24] Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Again. It's about the Kingdom. It's about Christ being King. And in His Kingdom - there is no other. Besides Him - there is no other. There is no other name - no other Authority under Heaven. He's the One, He's the Only Potentate - the King of kings and Lord of lords. In the Old Covenant World - God made room for other kings. The people demanded to have kings like all the other nations. But in the New Covenant World - those days ended. Man - as in - if it's ONLY US - if we are the only ones in God's Creation that will live - in the New Covenant World - where no one else is allowed to be King - except Him. We don't bow down to and serve other gods. Those things were unlawful in the Old World and they are ten times less lawful - 100 times less lawful in the New World.

It is not God's fault that men don't get this today. And, friends, if weren't for the fact that men have twisted the Word of God into a lie by saying the book of Revelation has not been fulfilled - it would be a whole lot harder for them to have accomplished all the evil they have done. Tear it down. Get it out of your mind. Futurism is not of God. It is not Bible. It does not have Biblical foundation. You have to twist God's Word into something it does not say in order to preach futurism.

The 144,000 will be jewish evangelists. Wow. That's incredible. There was one tribe called quote "jews" - they really should be called Judahites. The modern 501(c)(3) government preacher doesn't know enough Bible to know that not all the tribes of Israel should be called Judahites? I'm telling you, friends, if what you believe about the

Bible has been shaped or molded by anyone advocating for something called “church” - you better go back and reevaluate every single thing you think you know about the Scriptures. Verse 25:

[25] But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

[26] But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

[27] So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

[28] He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

[29] But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

[30] Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

I wonder. Could this be the same harvest talked about in the book of Revelation? Friends, you don't have to have spent 50 years studying this book to know that it's all talking about the same thing. Yes. Absolutely. The harvest that Christ is talking about in Matthew 13, is the exact same harvest we are reading about in Revelation chapter 14. Same one. It's not hard. It's not complicated.

All my early life of playing “church” I used to hear quote “preachers” talking about how difficult the book of Revelation was. In fact, most of the quote “preachers” didn't preach on it - as far as a series - where they went chapter by chapter - verse by verse. They mainly left it up to the VanImpe's and others like that. The book is only hard when you jerk it out of context, take it from it's proper place and time - put it thousands of years in the future - then it becomes a complete mess. And while they do that - they do all they can to avoid the passage that condemns those who add to or take away from the book.

I'm telling you that the hope of the world - the only thing that can save this world from suicide - from the madness it is in right now - is the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ. The present day reality of King and Kingdom. The King and His Kingdom have answers for all that plagues the world today. The answers are not in the scientists, they aren't in the doctors and they most certainly are not in the politicians -

they answers are in Christ. Verse 31:

[31] Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

[32] Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

[33] Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

[34] All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

[35] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Here it is again. The prophecies - the things hidden from the foundation of the world - were revealed in Christ, by Christ, in the first century. The Ecclesia, the Kingdom, the King - the things promised from the foundation of the world - revealed in the first century.

Again, it is not God's fault we haven't gotten this. It's our fault. And we can change it. We can turn from the lies of the 501(c)(3) government preachers and embrace the King and His Kingdom right now. His exclusive Kingdom. Besides Him there is no other.

[36] Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

[37] He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

[38] The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

[39] The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Again, now, let's not make this harder. This is not hard - but actually very easy. When was this harvest? The harvest was the end of the world. What does the phrase "the end of the world mean?" It is the end of the Old Covenant World. It is the end of the Old

Covenant Age? This harvest is exactly the same harvest as the one from Revelation 14.

The end of the world - the end of the age - has already occurred. The harvest has already occurred. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom. The children of the Kingdom - they were alive when the harvest came - when the Old Covenant World ended - they were the ones who had been planting the seed.

Look, if all this is future - then the Messiah has not come. The quote "evangelicals" can say they believe in quote "Jesus Christ" all they want to - but they are the tares not the wheat. When you tell someone that people who do not claim that Jesus Christ came in the flesh - when you tell someone those people are God's chosen people - you are not the children of the Kingdom - you are the children of the tares. You are the enemy that sowed bad seed. This is why futurism is so wicked. This is why it is so vitally important to understand these truths.

There are more quote "evangelicals" out there today getting as much or more exposure than they ever have - but we just witnessed and are continuing to witness - the greatest attack on the Kingdom of Christ - maybe - at least as far as sheer numbers go - the greatest advancement of men's little g "governments" - resulting in the greatest rebellion against the Word of God maybe in the history of mankind. Yet, very little has been done to stand in the way. In fact, most of the quote "church" has been standing behind the little g "government" pushing for the lockdowns, pushing for the experimental gene therapies - which are nothing less than the commission of adultery in a most grievous way.

The harvest - in the Words of Christ - is the end of the world - the end of the Old Covenant Age. When men such as David Jeremiah say that the harvest of Revelation 14 is yet future - they are saying that the Old Covenant World has not yet ended. This is why they can preach that the quote "jews" are God's chosen people. If we are still in the Old Covenant World - then God can have a quote "chosen people" who are still waiting for the messiah.

If these guys are sincere - and for the ones who draw thousands and thousands of people - bring in millions and millions of dollars - get invited to the white house for wine and crackers - I have my doubts - but if they are sincere - they are just not thinking through the implications of their belief system.

Take the word quote "antichrist" that we touched on last week. All these futurist

preachers talk about this “antichrist” like it is some man - some political figure out of the book of Revelation - yet - the word isn't even in the book of Revelation. It's in the epistles of John and it refers to those who say that Jesus was not the Messiah. Someone is antichrist if they deny that Jesus came in the flesh. And someone is antichrist if they promote someone who denies that Jesus Christ has already come in the flesh. Neither bid him God-speed. Have nothing whatsoever to do with someone who refuses to believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the Promised One of Israel.

So what does that do to the whole concept of the middle eastern quote “jews” being God's chosen people? Let's take the term “antichrist” and make a diversion out of it. Let's make it something completely different than what the Bible teaches. And the sad part is - millions and millions of people - all over the world - have never questioned - they never looked for themselves to see this horrible error - this huge deception.

But that doesn't make it God's fault. That makes it our fault. He gave us a book, told us to study it - told us - each one of us to be accountable - each of us to make sure that we worked out our own salvation with fear and trembling - each of us know that our faith - our system of belief - is built on the truth.

Sure, I know we want to believe the preacher. I want you to believe what I teach. But I want you to take what I say - make sure it aligns with Scripture - and if it doesn't - then let's talk about it. Let's reason it out from the Scripture. Error - bad faith - deception - has no place in the New Covenant World.

God is a spirit. They that worship Him, **must** worship Him in spirit and in truth. And the times of this ignorance, God winked at. But now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

The ignorant worship of God does not get it in the New Covenant World. If you believe what I believe - you need to make sure you believe it because it's the truth. Verse 40.

[40] As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Look it up.

so shall it be in the end of this world.

What world is He talking about? It's the aion. It's the end of the Old Covenant World. It is the end of the Messianic period. It's the end of the Jewish age.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire...

What is that? It's the book of Revelation. That's when this is all talking about. It's the same thing. It's all talking about the same things. People that have taken the book of Revelation and have basically separated it from the rest of the 27 - have done so - for one reason - they do not want the Kingdoms of this world - to have become the Kingdoms of our Lord. Oh they talk about it. They all do. But it's always for another day. It's never for today. It's always for a different time. It's always later. It's always future.

Christ is talking about His Kingdom - talking about the end of the world - talking about the harvest - talking about burning the tares with fire - and every single bit of that IS the book of Revelation - and it IS - the things which must shortly come to pass.

And it does make all the difference in the world - because He's King right now - He's been King since the first century - "church and state" was burned up with the rudimentary elements of the Old Covenant World - and we are supposed to be building His Kingdom - His Ecclesia today. Verse 41 - watch this closely.

[41] The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

[42] And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

[43] Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

What does that mean? It means that the Son of man sent His messengers and they destroyed all those that were participants in killing God's Son and persecuting and killing the saints - the first fruits unto Christ - and those first fruits could have ONLY been those who became followers of the Lamb in the first century.

Again, if the 144,000 of Revelation 14 - were clearly called the first fruits - and yet somehow they are in our future? What does that say for the first century saints and anyone else who has embraced Christ from that point to this?

I want to come back to Matthew 13, time permitting, but I want you to turn to Romans

8. Let's look a little more at who the firstfruits were. I'm telling you they are most definitely NOT in our future - no possible way. Romans 8, verse 1. I need you to do as we have so often done before. Put yourself in the shoes of the people who were hearing this, reading this for the very first time. These are first century believers. These were first century saints living in and around Rome.

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

[2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

[3] For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

[4] That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

[5] For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

[6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

[7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

[8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

[9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

[10] And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

[11] But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

[12] Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

[13] For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

[14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

[15] For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

[16] The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

[17] And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be

that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

[18] For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

[18] For I reckon that the sufferings of **this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Oh my goodness, brethren, you could almost stop right there at verse 18 and again - put a time-stamp on it. The people that this is talking about are the ones that went through the times of the book of Revelation. They went through sufferings - but their sufferings could not compare to the glory which was getting ready to be revealed - it's the book of Revelation - it's the Revealing of the King of kings and Lord of lords - all that was going to be revealed in that present time - in their lifetimes. Wow. verse 19.

[19] For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

[20] For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

[21] Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The Old Covenant World - which had brought the bondage that comes along with having kings like all the other nations - was coming down. If you don't think that is included here - go back and read again from I Samuel 8 and read again what God said would happen to people who refuse the Kingship of God:

[11] And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

[12] And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

[13] And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

[14] And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

[15] And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.



[16] And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

[17] He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

[18] And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and Yahweh will not hear you in that day.

The New World was bringing deliverance from the bondage of the Old World kings because a new, just, honest, perfect King was getting ready to be coronated. Verse 22, Romans 8.

[22] For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Exactly. That is the exact result when God's Creation lives in rebellion to the Creator. But the Redeemer had come. The Great Deliverer, the Saviour, the Messiah had come.

[23] And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Again, this isn't hard. The Bible fits like a glove. That's one of the things that lets us have confidence that the book can be trusted. It fits. It was written over a long period of time, at the fingertips of a lot of different people - and what they say confirms one another. And, it isn't hard to understand that the people who were the first ones to embrace Christ - would be called the firstfruits.

These people - the saints living at Rome - in that present time - the text says it as clearly as anything else can be said in the Scripture - those people - at that present time - were the firstfruits.

[24] For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

[25] But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

[26] Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

[27] And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- [28] And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- [29] For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- [30] Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
- [31] What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- [32] He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- [33] Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
- [34] Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- [36] As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- [37] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.
- [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is why the 144,000 wouldn't take Nero's mark. They believed this. They knew who they were in Christ - they knew who Christ was - and they were more than conquerors. They were joint-heirs with Christ. They would not bow because Christ Jesus was their Lord.

These are no doubt - part of the 144,000 FIRSTFRUITS of Revelation 14. This is why they had the power, the confidence to refuse Nero's mark. Many of these people very well could have had eye-witness testimony to the Messiah walking among them in the first century. They knew He was King. They knew He fulfilled all the prophecies. This is what gave them the confidence to defy what at that time - was a world power. They denied that quote "world-power" even unto what the world calls "death." They wouldn't bow. These were the ones who absolutely believed beyond any shadow of a doubt that the God of Israel was the One True King Who would save them - one way or another from the burning fiery furnace. Romans 8 identifies these believers as the firstfruits. And, I

can stand and say with every ounce of confidence today - they are not future - but were from that present time. To say that the 144,000 of Revelation 14 is future - is to make the Word of God into a lie.

Turn to I Corinthians chapter 15. I'd like to read the whole chapter, but I don't have the time this morning. Start in verse 15, please.

[15] Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

[16] For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

[17] And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

[18] Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

[19] If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

The time-stamp again - Christ was called the firstfruits after His resurrection. Took place in the first century, verse 21. Watch this carefully.

[21] For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

[22] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

[23] But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

[24] Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

[25] For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

[26] The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

This is the end of the Old Covenant World. This kingdom is the Old Covenant kingdom. In the which He has put down all rule and all authority. The days where God allowed men to have kings like all the other nations - ended. It ended with the end of the Old Covenant world.

So many people are confused at this chapter - and they insist that it must have a future fulfillment when it does not. It's the end of the Old Covenant World and all that went

with it. It's putting an end to all the enemies of Christ - it's talking about the same things we were looking at from Matthew 13. And once again - so vitally important that we understand this. The last enemy - the firstfruits - numero uno - the first ones - the first ones in the line - the first ones in the order - not hard - first - 1, 2, 3 4 - it's not hard - now get to the LAST enemy - the last enemy to be destroyed - what is it? Death!

I have proven over and over that the Scriptures say that Christ destroyed death. Let me show you another one that I don't think I have included in the vast number of verses that we have previously looked at concerning quote "death."

In closing, and it looks like we'll not get back to Matthew 13 today. Lord willing, we'll do it next time, let's just go ahead and close with II Timothy chapter 2. Let's read beginning in verse 1:

[1] Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

[2] To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

[3] I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

[4] Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

[5] When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

[6] Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

[7] For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

[8] Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

[9] Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

[10] But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Wow. My vote is that we just let God be true - and every man that does not believe that Jesus Christ destroyed death - abolished death - put an end to it - let's just them be liars. I'm believing the Word. The last enemy has been destroyed - that enemy was death.

We have seen this morning, once again, the book of Revelation from the viewpoint of other books in the last 27. Matthew 13 is a direct reference to the harvest in Revelation 14. In Christ's parable of Matthew 13 He says it's not time - at that time - to separate the wheat from the tares. That was going to happen in the end of the world. That's what Christ said was the harvest. In the last couple minutes here, turn back to Revelation 14 Go to verse 6. We have identified clearly - again - the time-stamp because of the 144,000 being clearly called the firstfruits - now look at verse 6 - keeping in mind how that Christ said the tares would be cast into the fire - where is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

[6] And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

[7] Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

[8] And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

[9] And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

[10] The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

[12] Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

[13] And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest

from their labours; and their works do follow them.

[14] And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

[15] And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

[16] And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

[17] And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

[18] And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

[19] And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

[20] And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

When we get finished today, if you need to, if Matthew 13 is not freshly burned into your understanding, go back and read it again. Then come back to Revelation 14 and read it again. It's all talking about the same thing.

The 144,000 of Revelation 14:1 are from the first century. They have to be. Unless - unless - you adopt the jews' religion. If you want to deny that Jesus was the Messiah - if there is a future coming messiah - a jewish messiah - then - when that jewish messiah comes - the first 144,000 jews that come to him - they will be the firstfruits.

Nope. Not me. Not this preacher. I admit it, I went to government school in the 60s and 70s - but at least I learned what first means - and I learned what last means. First and last occurred in the first century with the coming of the Messiah.

Continued.

[44] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

[45] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

[46] Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

[47] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

[48] Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

[49] So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

[50] And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

[51] Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

[52] Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

[53] And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

[54] And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

[55] Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

[56] And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

[57] And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

[58] And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

[2] And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their

harps:

[3] And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

[4] These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

[5] And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

[6] And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

[7] Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

[8] And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

[9] And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

[10] The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

[12] Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.