

GRACE TO JEWS AND GENTILES 5: THE 144,000 CONTINUED

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Last Sunday I finished by telling a dream I had when I was in college about Jews who were speaking Spanish. Later that same day, I just felt like reading a Contender. I was not at all looking for or expecting any kind of an answer to the dream but as I had a stack of Contenders, I just reached in the middle and took one completely at random. I didn't even start at the beginning but I opened it up and there Brother Jackson was preaching about the 144 000.

I was just amazed because he began to say that there would be Jews in Argentina. He was using Argentina as a specific example, how there are Jews who would come to Israel from Argentina. They would receive the gospel at the feet of the *two prophets* and they would then return to Argentina, *them knowing Spanish*, and they would be a part of that *Everlasting Gospel that will be preached*. [Revelation 14:6] Of course we didn't really get into what that is yet.

So let's go ahead and return to where we were in Revelation 14. Let's just start in verse one.

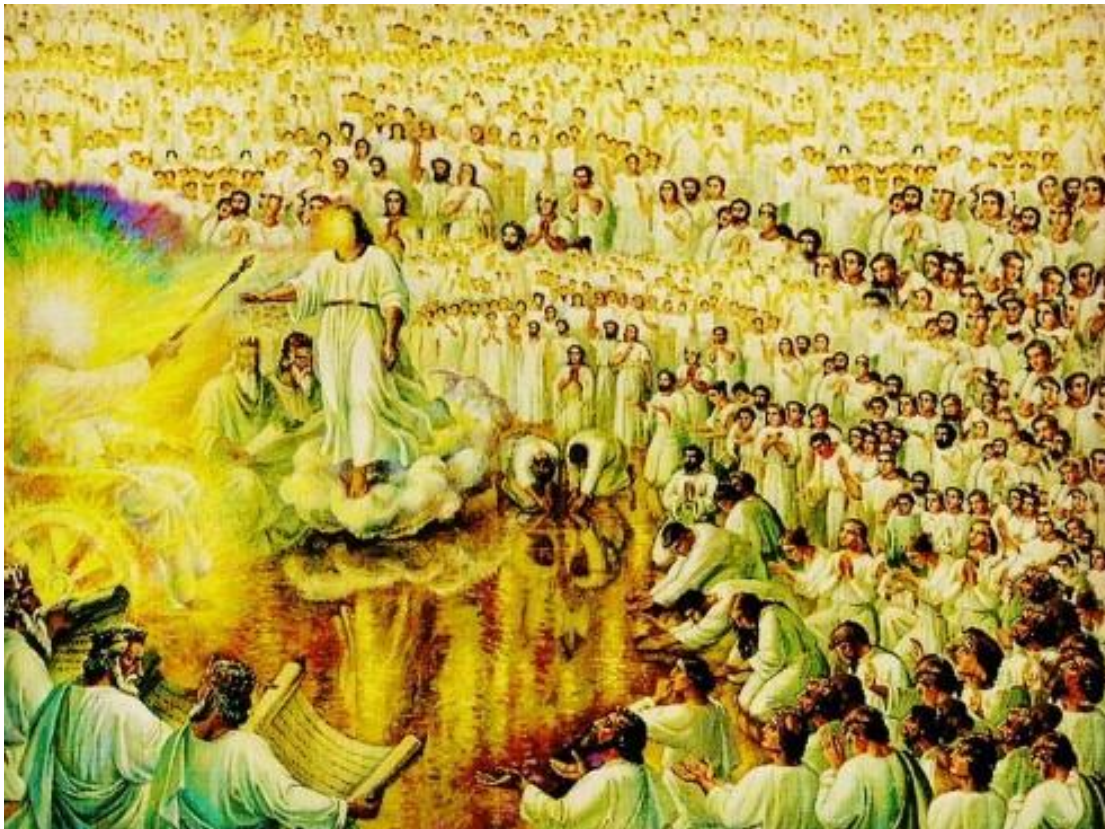
It says here:

Revelation 14:1

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Now if we didn't have the first half of Revelation 7 we would have to speculate who these *hundred forty four thousand* are, but in Revelation 7 it tells us very clearly that there were *twelve thousand* from each of the twelve tribes. If we just multiply twelve times *twelve thousand*, that gives us the *hundred forty four thousand*.

Here's a little photograph or drawing:



On the Internet it's very hard to find a picture that actually shows them with a lamb. Of course that's because we all know that *Lamb* is the Lord Jesus Christ. [Revelation 14:1] Praise the Lord.

We have to remember: this is just a little bit in front of us in time when these Jews are going to come to the *knowledge* of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. That will happen in the *first half* of the Week.

We know as the Jews look at the Torah for example, that's what they have today: the Torah and the Prophets, we see that *the lamb* is something very integral. There were very specific instructions how to choose the lamb, when to sacrifice the lamb, how to sacrifice the lamb, and all of that.

So we understand that the *two prophets* [Revelation 11:3] are going to go back and start with what the Jews already *know* and what they *understand*.

God is going to inspire them to show how that lamb did not mean there's always going to be an animal sacrifice but the lamb *pointed to something*.

They're going to bring out how Jesus Christ was *the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world*. [John 1:29] That's what John the Baptist said.

He did *not* say: behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of Israel, but it's written that he said: *who taketh away the sins of the world*.

So God is going to give a *revelation* to those Jews.

We have to understand: once they receive that *revelation*, it's going to open up the floodgates for them because they are then going to have the *New Testament*.

Don't think they will go through those first *three-and-a-half years* entirely and they're still only going to have the Old Testament and a certain understanding of what it means. They are absolutely going to see that the New Testament *is the gospel of Christ* and they are going to be reading this New Testament.

They will not come to the full understanding that you and I have. Remember: God has dealt with us over decades and we're still learning. I know the Jews can learn very quickly but they are still not going to see everything that you and I see. But they will see everything they need to see *for their day*.

To a certain point, as far as what's going to happen in the *second half* of the Week, we can say: they will see it even *better* than you and I see it because we understand that God uses *conditions of time itself* to shine light on what He's doing *in that day*. Praise the Lord.

So yes, He's going to show us all we need to know but they are *also* going to see certain things as they will be approaching and actually going into that *second half* of the Week.

I just think it's beautiful because we know: one day they're going to read this about *the Lamb*.

They have been longing for the day they can go back, have their Temple, and resume sacrifice of that *lamb*. They see it in the Old Testament and God is going to give them their Temple back. Praise the Lord. There's even going to be a certain resuming of the sacrifice. But then they're going to be able to look back and see what it actually *represents*.

And then, when they read this [Revelation 14:1] that's going to rejoice their heart even more. They're going to be able to say: Glory Hallelujah! That's exactly what the Lord is doing *today!*

Now let's go ahead and jump down to verse 4.

It says here:

Revelation 14:4

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

Now it doesn't just say *they are virgins* but it says: *they have not been defiled with women.*

If we just look at the natural side, we know if a man lawfully marries a woman, we wouldn't say he is *defiled*, right? He would no longer be a *virgin* but we would *not* say that he is *defiled*.

The way this is worded is pretty strong. And we have to understand: the *women* it's speaking of here are *not* natural women or natural wives but this is speaking about *churches*.

And still it says: *they are not defiled.*

Well we know that if a Jew was to marry a Gentile, that was considered *being defiled*, so really what this is speaking about is not letting these Gentile Churches have an influence on their *spiritual understanding*.

If we look back at the last ten, twenty, and thirty years, there are all kinds of Denominational Christian Churches that have had programs either to go to Israel to proselyte the Jews there and they've also had programs to proselyte Jews in their community.

I think it was maybe thirty years ago, the Southern Baptist Convention which I believe pretty much represents the largest Protestant organization here in the United States, they made a declaration that they were going to put an effort to bring the gospel to the Jews here in the United States. Then one of the larger Jewish organization said that the Baptist Church had just declared spiritual war on Judaism. So *that* organization certainly understood that they *didn't* want to be Baptist.

Of course we know there is nothing wrong if a Jew can recognize that Jesus Christ is their Messiah. The issue is when they accept that Trinitarian Doctrine.

That is *not* a true Christian doctrine even though it's what 99% of Christianity believes. And it completely contradicts, we can say, the foremost understanding the Jews have about *Who God is*. Their first prayer is: *Listen, O Israel* or *Hear, O Israel: Our God is One*. [Deuteronomy 6:4] Praise the Lord.

So when we see here that it says:

Revelation 14:4

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

That helps us understand: these are *not* the Jews who have been supposedly proselyted or converted to Christianity by the modern Gentile Christian Church organizations.

There are Jews who *have* accepted the teaching of these Gentile Churches. There are Jews today who will tell you: yes Jesus Christ is the Messiah, but the vast majority of them have accepted a Trinitarian Doctrine.

That shows us: they are *not* true spiritual Jews. They have a certain religious pull but they do not believe the foundation of what God showed the Jews.

Now I'm *not* saying: God can't help turn one of those around. They're *not* going to be part of this *hundred forty four thousand* but while there is life, there may be one who can see his error. But as a whole, those are *not* the spiritual Jews.

Revelation 14:4

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

So we understand: these are persons who probably look at themselves today as Orthodox Jews or even what they would call Ultra-Orthodox. There may be some who don't identify that way, maybe because they are disillusioned with the religious environment but they still have a *draw* to the Word of God and they *believe* the Word of God.

Today they believe the Word that they have the light for, but these are Jews who have *not yet* been converted to Christianity.

I have no doubt the majority of them most likely have wives, so it's just *spiritually* that they are *virgins*, just like we read in Matthew 25. Of course those are Gentiles but it speaks of *ten virgins: five wise and five foolish*. [Matthew 25:1-2] Now this is applied to these *Jews*. [Revelation 14:4]

We continue reading:

Revelation 14:4

These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Here again we have the word *redeemed*. That shows us further that these are not Jews who are still believing just in the Old Testament.

Again, *redemption* is something very integral to the Torah. We read about *redemption of land* [Leviticus 25:24] we read about *redemption of servants* [Leviticus 25:48] and we even read about how *God redeemed Israel, bringing her out of Egypt*. [Deuteronomy 7:8]

So again, these two prophets are going to go back to what the Jews *understand*, both speaking about the *lamb* and also *redemption*.

Here it says:

Revelation 14:4

These were redeemed from among men,

Now it doesn't say that *the men* they were redeemed *from* were themselves Jews. But remember: they came from *all parts of the earth*. And they have come back to the land of Israel.

I would have to say even further: for the most part, these are living in Jerusalem. They are going to have, if I can say it like this: a *front row seat* to the message of those *two prophets*. [Revelation 11:3]

These Jews are going to be the first ones converted. They will be the first ones to receive the message, to make the decision to repent of their sins, to see the truth of the gospel message, and to go to the water of baptism and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Now I have here a little bit of data or some results about the immigration of the Jews. They have their own term for it, they call it *Aliyah*. When they say *Aliyah* they're speaking of Jews immigrating to Israel from somewhere in the world.

First of all, here I have the fifteen countries that have the greatest representation of Jews today.

Rank	Country	Population	% of world Jewry
1	United States	7,300,000	47.9%
2	Israel	7,106,000	45.8%
3	France	442,000	2.9%
4	Canada	394,000	2.6%
5	U.K.	292,000	1.9%
6	Argentina	173,000	1.1%
7	Russia	145,000	1.0%
8	Australia	118,000	0.8%
9	Germany	118,200	0.8%
10	Brazil	91,000	0.6%
11	South Africa	51,000	0.3%
12	Hungary	46,500	0.3%
13	Ukraine	40,000	0.3%
14	Mexico	40,000	0.3%
15	Netherlands	29,700	0.2%

We know they were scattered from their land more than once as punishment and that the last and greatest dispersion was when Titus came around 70 AD. That was because they had crucified the Christ and they had rejected their Messiah.

For almost two thousand years Israel did not even exist as a nation. It lost its national identity as a country and it was controlled by the Gentiles. But the Jews still maintained their ethnic, cultural, and spiritual identity.

So these are the fifteen countries with the most Jewish population. It's interesting, at least according to this table, the country with the most Jews is the United States. Israel is in second place. Now according to this, it's very close. You may find another source that puts Israel ahead. The United States has about seven million Jews. I believe I saw another count of nine million Jews in Israel so that's why I'm saying: that's according to this chart.

Then we have France. That's Europe, right? We know those Northern tribes were dispersed to Europe.

We have Canada. I believe Canada will also receive some of the Jews who will *flee to the wilderness*. [Revelation 12:6]

In fifth rank is the United Kingdom, the majority are in Great Britain.

Then we have Argentina. That was the one Brother Jackson was talking about in the Contender. That's Latin America.

You may say: how did they get there? Well I don't know the full history but I do know that there was a large population of Jews in Spain for many centuries so I would guess many of them came from Spain and settled in Argentina. Now we don't even see Spain in the top fifteen countries.

So Argentina, that's South America.

We have North America: the United States and Canada. We have South America. Of course we have Israel. We have Europe.

We continue: we have Russia, that's Eastern Europe or the North.

Australia, I didn't know that they were in the top fifteen but we do know that England colonialized a lot of the world. I believe Australia was a part of that kingdom and South Africa as well.

We have Germany, of course that's Europe again.

Then Brazil, back to South America.

South Africa, now we're down in Africa.

Hungary, that's Central Europe.

Ukraine, Mexico, it's interesting we knew there was a good number of Jews in Ukraine but as of the printing of this, they now have the same number as Mexico.

Then the Netherlands.

There are a hundred countries that have some representation of Jews. It's very interesting how since Israel became a nation and probably more in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, almost all the Jews have left some of those countries.

Ethiopia had a good representation of Jews but there was an emigration from Ethiopia to Israel back in the 80s. I don't remember the exact name but it was something like *project Solomon* and today Ethiopia is more or less empty of Jews.

So this is where they are today.

Now on this next chart, the column on the right side shows how many Jews have emigrated out of these countries to Israel since Israel became a nation.

Russia, Ukraine (former USSR)	1,747,250
Morocco, Algeria, & Tunisia	364,745
Romania	276,985
Poland	174,119
Iraq	131,065
United States	120,223
Ethiopia	94,733
France	80,232
Iran	81,154
Argentina	63,935
Turkey	64,299
Yemen	51,551
Bulgaria	44,513
Egypt and Sudan	38,046
Libya	36,120
United Kingdom	37,299
Hungary	32,961
India	29,524
Czechoslovakia (former)	24,728
South Africa	22,731
Germany	20,995
Brazil	15,563
Canada	12,950
Georgia	12,269

We see almost 95 000 from Ethiopia, and I think the number of Jews living there today is in the hundreds. So 95 000 Jews just from Ethiopia. They have left and come to Israel.

Almost two million Jews have come out of Russia. We see there's still a good number in Russia today and they are *still* coming out of Russia.

We have Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, that's the north of Africa. Today they don't even show up, I mean, it's a fraction of a percent of all Jews who live in those countries so they have almost been emptied of the Jewish population.

We have to understand: in some places there are still large Jewish communities but in others there are just a few here and there. Some of the younger ones have left parents or grandparents and they have come to Israel.

Now I'm not saying every one of these is going to be part of the 144 000. They can't because it adds up to more than 144 000. In fact, it's in the millions.

But we just look at these countries: there's Argentina: 64 000 have left Argentina.

Egypt and Sudan: 38 000.

I saw a figure yesterday, I don't know how true it is but it completely surprised me. It had only *a hundred* Jews today in Egypt. Now I can certainly understand why a Jew wouldn't want to live in Egypt being the Islamic country that it is, but *one hundred*, that's extremely few.

So again, this is how many have left these countries and come to Israel.

We have to remember: many of them still have family back home. But they have been inspired to come to Israel. They feel that pull: *that's who I am*. Many of them don't even know what the Lord has planned for them.

Remember: it's not just 144 000 but there's also *the woman* of Revelation 12. It doesn't tell how many make up that *woman*. If 144 000 are *the firstfruits*, it could go beyond that but I don't know, that number wasn't given to us.

So let's go back to verse 4 and just read the last sentence.

It says here:

Revelation 14:4

These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

It doesn't say just *unto the Lamb* but it says: *unto God and unto the Lamb*.

So again, in first place: these men have already had a spiritual walk with Jehovah God, having the writings of Moses and the Prophets, walking in the light that they have from that.

Then as God shows them more light, praise the Lord, they won't do like the Pharisees did in Jesus' day: well we have Moses, who do you think you are? Who could be greater than Moses? But they will be able to see *the revelation of the Word for their day and for their time*.

They will be *the firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb*. [Revelation 14:4] That will include their wives and their families, not that their wives and families are part of the 144 000 but for the most part, their family will also receive the gospel message and so will others who know them. This will happen in the latter part of those first *three and a half years*. Maybe I shouldn't say *latter part* but *after* they receive it.

So if they are *the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb*, it means others will also be *redeemed unto God and to the Lamb* from among the rest of the Jews.

I skipped something in that verse that I really want to look at. Let's go back to the middle sentence.

Revelation 14:4

These are they which follow the Lamb withersoever he goeth.

Who is *the Lamb*? We know that's the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ is *not* going to physically be here on earth for them to follow him, but we have to understand: this is *spiritual*. As he will have those *two prophets* to open up the Word, it will be a *parallel* or we might say: a *type* or a *shadow* of what's happening *today*.

Today we have the scripture Jesus spoke: *where I am, there will my servant be*. [John 12:26] What does that mean? *Where the Lord is*, that's the part of the Word of God on which *He is shining the light*. The part of the Word of God that He is bringing the church *to an understanding of*, that's where his servant is going to be.

In other words: the true ministry is following the light of the revealed Word *as He shines the light on it*. Praise the Lord. And there is a certain focus *for today*. Praise the Lord.

Yes of course we need the entire Word. All of the Word is God's Word but there is a portion of it that He is shining the light on *today* and that He wants us to see and *receive today*.

That's the issue with so many movements: they live in the *glare* or we can say the *reflection* of another day.

We have the Pentecostals today, they are still looking for a renewing of Azusa Street. They want to see another *revival* like Azusa Street. They are living back in the *reflection* of the light of Pentecost.

Now do we need that today? Yes we do. I thank God for Acts 2:38 and every new believer is going to need Acts 2:38. But for the church as a whole, the Lord has moved on *beyond that*. Praise the Lord.

Do we still need it? Of course we do! But we *don't* stop there and say: well we need Azusa Street again.

They talk about how the people fasted and prayed, and then there was this great move of God. They've been trying to reproduce that for more than a hundred years now! They have their prayer meetings and their fastings, but what they failed to understand is: God knew the work He wanted to do before any of them ever prayed.

God put that *desire* and that *push* in their heart, and those who were following the leadership of the Spirit back then responded by prayer and fasting, and God honored that. He brought the Azusa Street anointing that He had already planned before they even thought of something. So we can't reproduce that because God has already *moved on*.

Yes, individuals are going to have their own experience and how beautiful it is! Amen.

I'm just using the Pentecostals as an example, but we are more familiar and we see it with the Branham and the Jackson followers. They are living in the *reflection* or the *glare* of *that day*. Yes it is a certain light but it's *not* the light that the Lord is shining on the Word *today*. He has moved and He has brought the church *beyond that*.

I think math is a perfect example. There's a day when we teach people $2 + 2 = 4$ right? But when we get to calculus, we have to be *beyond that*. We have to *already know* that $2 + 2 = 4$. Do we forget about it and we don't need it anymore? No, we still use it every day but we've *moved on*. Now we're talking about *integrals* and *derivatives*. We still need the basics but we're not just going back and redoing that. We continue on *in knowledge*. That's in the natural.

So these *follow the lamb whithersoever he goeth*. [Revelation 14:4]

He is going to go to *different places in the Word* and they are going to be able to *receive* what He has for them in the Word. Praise the Lord.

Now let's go ahead and continue.

Revelation 14:5

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

Now we know that nobody except the Lord Jesus Christ is completely without fault before God but when the blood of Jesus Christ covers us, then we are seen *as worthy*.

It specifically mentions here that *no guile is found in their mouth*. [Revelation 14:5]

This shows that these particular men have a certain character. They are not people who were violent, mistreating people, lying to everybody, and then the Grace of God came and turned them around.

Can God turn a person like that around? Sure He can, but these people already have the testimony of a certain character.

Now it says here in verse 6:

Revelation 14:6

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,

Now we know that there are only 144 000 of these, right? And even though they come from different places in the world, it's not *every* place. But let's not forget: today we also have means of communication: we have the Internet.

When I was in high school, if someone had told me that one day I would be preaching and people in Africa would be able to see it, even if they had told me I would be *preaching*, I probably wouldn't have believed them. I mean, only a major television channel would have been able to send a signal there. It would cost millions of dollars to send a video and then they could only send it to a particular spot. Now it can be *worldwide*. And yes, there's a little cost to it but it's not much.

We have to understand: God is going to place them *strategically*. They have been coming from wherever they were. I'll just mention France as an example. So they've come from France to Israel and they will listen to the *two prophets* during the *first half of the Week*. They will receive the Lord Jesus Christ and then as they go into the *second half of the Week*, the Lord will *lead them*.

He has led them in the Word and now He's going to lead them by His Spirit to go back to where they came from. Some will go back to Argentina, some will go back to France, and some will go back wherever. God knows where to send them all. And they're going to preach the *everlasting gospel*.

This is called *gospel* which means *good news* but this is not going to be the gospel of Jesus Christ. We know as far as bringing the Gentiles in, the Lord is going to close that off when the Seventh Seal is broken. And He's not going to bring the Gentiles back in.

You may ask: well Brother, what about those who are going to be maybe ten years old when the Seventh Seal is broken and who haven't come to a point of accountability yet?

Well when we get over to the *second half of the week of Daniel*, they will then be fifteen or seventeen. But is the Lord going to draw every single one? Or let me rephrase that: is every one going to respond?

We know we're going into a time when the heart of people is turning cold. I don't mean *cold* like in natural friendships and things like that. What I'm talking about is *toward the things of God*. Mankind as a whole is losing his sensitivity to the things of God. You just can't seem to make a connection anymore, there may only be *one here* and *one there*.

But the Lord knows: there may be *one here* and *one there* who are going to need to hear this message even in the *last half* of the week of Daniel.

This is not something that's going to turn the world around but for whichever individual souls will hear it, I have to say: there will be a great reward because God can see: if they will hear that message, they would also accept the gospel. And He will give them a test as far as what's going to happen in that *last half* of the 70th Week.

So we look at this and it says here: *preach the everlasting gospel to them that dwell on the earth*. [Revelation 14:6]

Revelation 14:6
to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Revelation 14:7
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.

By that day there will be such an atheistic spirit on the world, it will be very rare to even find a person who will say: there is a God and I can give glory to Him.

But thank God there are still going to be a *few* here and there.

We're not going to get there this morning but those *few* will make up the *sheep* element that we read about in Matthew 25 as they will go into the Millennium. [Matthew 25:31-34]

Sometimes we may think: oh the Lord is looking at us *right now* and maybe we should be helping people.

Well yes, He's always looking at us but we have to walk with wisdom: a lot of what we see today when people ask us for help, it's *not* because they have stood for the Lord and are being persecuted.

Today a lot of it is just, how can I put it? It's a lack of wisdom: they don't really know how to live their life. And if we want to help them, we could even argue: what's help and what's not. And that's between us and the Lord.

But what we see in Matthew 25, this is specifically *those who are persecuted because of their stand for the Lord* and there's going to be a people *who will do what they can to care for them*. [Matthew 25:35-40]

I'm getting a little ahead of myself but first of all, these people are going to be *Gentiles*, or at least the great majority are going to be Gentiles who will hear the message of these 144 000. Most won't even lend an ear but there will be *a few* who will, and they're going to be able to glorify God.

Revelation 14:8

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.

That is the pronouncement of judgement of the Catholic Church. This Babylon is none other than the Catholic Church. Today they say there are more than a billion Catholics worldwide. I spoke about how even the news journalists began to get teary-eyed when they elected this current pope.

When we get to this point in the week of Daniel, something is going to happen to expose all of its deception and falsehood. There's going to be a revolt, not that people will come up against it but in their heart they're going to know this was just a false religion. Not that Christianity is false but they will know this Catholic system was a false system and it's going to lose all of its accolades and praises.

This will also be part of the message of these 144 000, the pronouncement of judgement on the Catholic Church.

Revelation 14:9

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

Revelation 14:10

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.

I know it continues here but I'm also looking at the clock.

Their message is going to clearly identify how that *mark* is being implemented and what the *image* is. [Revelation 14:11]

They are going to have the message: do not dare take that *mark* or you will be lost. You are going to be *tormented*. You will not have life but you are going to *drink of the judgement of God*. [Revelation 14:10]

And we see how the judgement of God is going to be poured out at the end of that 70th Week. [Revelation 6:12-17]

So these are the three major aspects of their ministry. Amen. The *foolish virgins* are still going to be able to hear it, they have already been saved. The *remnant* is going to be able to hear it, and also the ones who really stand out as the product of this gospel are those *sheep nations* of Matthew 25.

I'm going to go ahead and close this morning. Let's go ahead and pray.