

## The Progress of Redemption

Lesson 15 – Act 3, Salvation Consummated

### A STUDY OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE (a review of our course)

#### Toolbox for Progress

- The Bible is One Book and Contains One Story
- The Bible is Either God DOING something (historical) or God SAYING something (didactic). In progress, we trace the historical record.
- God’s ultimate goal is to bring himself GLORY. God promises to fill the earth with His Glory. There will be a people, filling the earth, who glorify God.
- The Emmaus Principle: “All Scripture relates in some way to God’s ultimate goal.”

#### The Great Prologue - Gen. 1-11

- God’s Perfect Creation
- Man’s Failure and Impossible Problem
  - Failure of the First Family – Adam&Eve/Cain&Abel (Gen. 3-4)  
Genealogy in Gen. 5 – fast forward though time
  - Failure of the First World – (Gen 6-9)  
Genealogy in Gen 10 – fast forward through time
  - Failure of the Second World – Tower of Babel (Gen. 11)  
Genealogy in Gen 11 – fast forward through time

## ACT 1 – Salvation is PROVIDED

#### The Abrahamic Promise

- 1) I will make you into a great nation
- 2) I will bless you
- 3) I will make your name great
- 4) I will make you into a blessing (channel of blessing)
- 5) I will bless those who bless you, curse those who curse you
- 6) I will bless all the families of the earth through you

#### This verse in Matthew explains the whole Old Testament

Matthew 1:17 <sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations (**scene 1** – I will build of you a great nation), and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations (**scene two** – the division and casting of the nation of Israel), and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations (**scene 3** – the remnant returns and Christ comes).

## Scene 1 - The Building of the Nation (the womb of Salvation)

- Steps 1 – Founding Fathers (Gen.12-50)
- Step 2 – Tribal Framework (Gen. 50)
- Steps 3 – People (Exodus 1:7)
- Step 4 – A Leader (Exodus 2 and following)
- Step 5 – Deliverance from Egypt (Salvation Prefigured – Exodus 1-12)
- Steps 6 – A Culture for God’s People (Exodus 20 – also Leviticus)
- Step 7 – Conquer/Divide the Land (Book of Joshua)
- Step 8 – Tribes Established in the Land (Book of Judges)
- Step 9 – Samuel the Prophet/Judge of Israel (1 Samuel)
- Step 10 – Monarchy under Saul (1 Samuel 9 and following)
- Step 11 – The Great Theocracy under David/Solomon (1 Sam. 16-2 Kings 10)

**Israel becomes a GREAT NATION as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant**

## Scene 2 – The Division and Casting of the Nation (the Womb of the Church)

- Step 1 – The Nation Divided (1 Kings 11)
- Step 2 – The Downward Cycle of Sin (1 Kings 11-following)
- Step 3 – The Destruction of the Northern Kingdom and the Diaspora of the Southern Kingdom (1 Kings 11 - 22 & 2 Chron. 1 – 36)
- Step 4 – The Remnant Returns: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

## Scene 3 - **The Coming of Christ** (the Event of Salvation) – The Gospels

This is the climax of the Old Testament and the fulfillment of the OT expectation and hope.

**SALVATION IS PROVIDED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS PROMISED TO ABRAHAM**

## **ACT 2 – Salvation is PROCLAIMED** Acts 1-28ff

- Step 1 - New Channel of Salvation Promised: The Church (Matt 16:13-19)
- Step 2 – Old Channel (Israel) Set Aside – (Acts 15, Romans 14:14, 1 Cor. 8:4; whole Book of Hebrews)
- Step 3 – Nature of the New Channel
  - International rather than Ethnic (Israel)
  - Local rather than centralized in Jerusalem
  - Non-political rather than political (no power of the sword)
- Step 4 – Power to do the Job – The Day of Pentecost (Acts 1-2)
- Step 5 – The New Channel comes OUT OF the Old Channel (true Israel becomes the Church) (Acts 3-12)
- Step 6 – Christ begins to Go to the Nations (Acts 13-28)
  - The Church takes root among the Diaspora Jews scattered around the world.
  - The Church becomes more and more Gentile in nature.

**THE CHURCH AGE IS THE TIME BETWEEN CHRIST’S FIRST COMING AND CHRIST’S SECOND COMING.**

## **ACT 3 - Salvation is Consummated and all the Families of the Earth are Blessed (Book of Revelation)**

We live today in Acts 29, the Church Age. The book of Acts ends at Acts 28 with the gospel going into the whole world. We are writing Acts 29 now, the continuing story of Gospel proclamation. Jesus told us that there was an Act of God to follow the current age.

Matthew 24:14 <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

When God has saved the last person He intends to save, and when the Gospels witness has reached the zenith of God's intended witness, Jesus tells us that "then the end will come." This is the LAST DAY, or the "Day of the Lord" that the Bible often speaks about.

We live in the "last days," (Acts 2:17; 2 Timothy 3:1; Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3) but we await the 'LAST DAY.'

### **The Bible often speaks of the "Day of the Lord."**

And most often, it has a NEGATIVE connotation.

- Isaiah 13:9-13 <sup>9</sup> Behold, **the day of the LORD** comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. <sup>10</sup> For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. <sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. <sup>12</sup> I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.
- Ezekiel 30:3 <sup>3</sup> For the day is near, **the day of the LORD is near**; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.
- Amos 5:18-19 <sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire **the day of the LORD**! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, <sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

The Day of the Lord is ...

- The time of God's coming wrath
- Against the nations who stand against the Lord
- The time when evil will be punished and even vanquished
- The time when cosmic forces are at work and the very foundations of the universe are shaken

There is also a Clear Message that there will be those who ESCAPE the Day of the Lord.

- Obadiah 1:15-17 <sup>15</sup> For **the day of the LORD** is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. <sup>16</sup> For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. <sup>17</sup> But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.
- Malachi 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."
- Acts 2:19-21 <sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; <sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

## **Act III - GOD CULMINATES SALVATION BY BLESSING ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH (The Completion of Salvation)**

Let's talk about the Book of Revelation: The Book of Revelation is, in some sense, also a historical book. It recounts the history of what has already happened in God's cosmic plan of salvation, and it predicts the history of what is about to occur.

Most people miss that the Book of Revelation, in some sense, recounts what has already happened. Let me give you an example of the future and past aspects of the Book of Revelation.

### **The Future Aspect to the Book of Revelation**

Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

This passage is clearly pointing to the future. The Book of Revelation looks to the future "Day of Christ" and sees it as "near." What this probably means is that nothing must happen, no other major event must happen, before Jesus comes. In other words, all that has needed to happen, has happened, and there is no long list of things that must occur, before Jesus comes. Theologians say that his second coming is "imminent."

John MacArthur puts it this way ...

Christ could come at any moment. I believe that with all my heart—not because of what I read in the newspapers, but because of what I read in Scripture. From the very earliest days of the church, the apostles and first-generation Christians nurtured an earnest expectation and fervent hope that Christ might suddenly return at any time to gather His church to heaven. James, writing what was probably the earliest of the New Testament epistles, expressly told his readers that the Lord's return was imminent: "Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:7–9, emphasis added). Peter echoed that same expectation when he wrote, "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers" (1 Pet 4:7). The writer of Hebrews cited the imminent return of Christ as a reason to remain faithful: "Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb 10:24–25). (see [http://www.gty.org/resources/print/articles/A368#\\_ftn1](http://www.gty.org/resources/print/articles/A368#_ftn1))

## **The Past Aspect to the Book of Revelation**

Revelation 1:19 <sup>19</sup> Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

John reveals that there are, revealed in the Book of Revelation, "things that are" and "those that are about to take place after this." Things that are present and things that are future are going to be revealed in the Book of Revelation.

## **What Does John Tell us the Book of Revelation is about?**

Revelation 1:4-10 <sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." <sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ...

John says the following ...

- He speaks for God (who is and was and is to come) and for Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn from the Dead, and the Ruler of the Kings of the Earth. (1:4-5)
- He dedicates the book to "him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests to his God and Father." (1:5-6)
- He declares that "He is coming with the clouds (like he promised in Acts when he left), and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account to him." (echoes of the Day of the Lord are seen clearly here)
- He sees himself as a PARTICIPANT with the church of Jesus Christ "in the tribulation" and the "kingdom" and the "patient endurance that are in Jesus." (1:9) ((John was imprisoned on Patmos by the Romans and church history tells us that he was dumped into scalding oil in a coliseum and survived, being exiled to Patmos.))
- He writes to the 7 Churches of Asia (Those planted by Paul and the apostles and existing during the days of John when he wrote this book, but probably standing for all the churches of Jesus Christ that have ever existed." (1:10-3:22)

And then the Book of Revelation opens with 7 Letters to the 7 Churches

### **THE THINGS THAT ARE (The Church Age) – Revelation 1:10-3:32**

The 7 Letters shows that God's main interest during this age is the health of his churches. The Church Age is primary in God's perspective on the world and world events. The Gospel is meant to go into all the world, and people are being "called out" of the world and into the Kingdom of God. And God intends to judge his churches first at his coming. He warns them that their judgment is coming and that they are to be faithful to him.

### **THE SCENE IN HEAVEN – Revelation 4**

Revelation 4 reveals a scene in heaven. God is present and the 24 Elders are present and the angels who always worship God are present. The 24 Elders represent the church of Jesus Christ – 12 representing his OT people and 12 representing his NT people. Interesting to note that in the Holy of Holies in heaven, the only things present are angels whose job is to worship God and 24 elders who represent his heart – the church of Jesus Christ – the people of God. The Scroll of the Future – Revelation 5

MY THESIS: THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS NOT A CHRONOLOGY BUT A CYCLING VIEW OF THE SAME EVENT – THE COMING DAY OF THE LORD. We see the same event over and over and over again from many different perspectives. The perspective of the kings of the earth, the perspective of the

nations, the perspective of the Christians who are suffering while they await the Day of the Lord, the perspective of biblical history, etc. Each and every perspective has two major themes.

The Description of God's Judgment upon those in Rebellion

The Description of God's Grace and Protection of His People

## **THE FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE DAY OF THE LORD, which brings GOD'S JUDGMENT and GOD'S PROTECTION**

### **The 7 Horses of the Apocalypse – Revelation 6**

The judgment of God begins, ending in cosmic catastrophe "sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to earth. The sky vanished like a scroll and every mountain and island was removed from its place." The kings of the earth and the great ones and the rich and powerful, and everyone else, HID THEMSELVES in the caves and among the rocks ... crying ... "fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb."

### **The 144,000 Sealed and Protected from Harm – Revelation 7**

The 144,000 is a symbolic number representing 12 tribes x the numbers of perfection. This is not a literal 144,000 but they represent ...

"a great multitude that no-one can number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands." (7:9-10).

THE FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE LORD'S DAY SHOWS US THAT THE WORLD WILL BE JUDGED, THAT THE CHRISTIANS WILL BE SAVED, AND THAT A COSMIC END WILL COME TO THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT.

## **THE SECOND DESCRIPTION OF THE DAY OF THE LORD, which brings GOD'S JUDGMENT and GOD'S PROTECTION**

### **The 7 Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8-11**

Vast judgments fall upon the earth in each trumpet judgment, beginning with cosmic judgments seen in "peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake (8:5)". The great rebellion of the inhabitants of the earth is plain

and clear. God continues to bring judgment, but in the end, we read this at the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet ...

Revelation 11:15-19 <sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. <sup>18</sup> The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." <sup>19</sup> Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Two themes are clear – the judgment of the nations and the protection of the godly who know and are known by God, with the culmination being God's holy temple is opened, the ark of his covenant is seen within the temple, for God's presence is opening to God's people.

### **THE THIRD DESCRIPTION OF THE DAY OF THE LORD, which brings GOD'S JUDGMENT and GOD'S PROTECTION**

#### **The Judgment of the Red Dragon and The Worship of the 144,000 – Revelation 12-14**

**The Dragon (Revelation 12-13)** – This scene of God's judgment begins by recounting "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head 12 stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth." This is a description of Israel and the birth of the Savior. "She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne." (12:2,5).

The Red Dragon is Satan who has led the rebellion of a third of the angels, and who fails to devour the child. He is defeated in heaven by the angel Michael and is thrown down to the earth to do his worse. He attempts to

**The Worship of the 144,000 (Revelation 14)** – The Lamb and the 144,000 (People of God) stand on Mt. Zion, where they "sang a new song" before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. Their righteousness is revealed, and the eternal gospel is proclaimed all over the earth to every nation and tribe and language and people (:6). The evil are separated from the righteous of God.

**For times sake, we will not look at Revelation 15-19 which describe the Day of the Lord and the 7 Bowls of God's Wrath, and also the Praise of a great multitude in heaven (Rev. 19) who rejoice at the judgments of evil and the makers of evil.**

## **THE CONSUMMATION OF SALVATION (The Day of the Lord has Come)**

### **Revelation 20 – The Final Judgments of God**

#### **The Binding of Satan for 1,000 Years – (The Church Age)**

:2-3 "so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while."

:4 "I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years." (The dead in Christ reign with Christ in heaven during the church age). First resurrection is the conversion of the lost and their entry into life.

#### **The Release of Satan after the Church Age – (20:7-10)**

- He will be released and gain power again on the earth for a short time, deceiving the nations once again. (:7-8).
- He will be defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire where he will suffer forever. (:9-10).

#### **The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)**

- The Books were opened to judge the world (resurrected). (:12). The dead were judged by what was written in the books, and death and hades gave up their dead and they were all judged. (:13)
- And the Book of Life was opened to judge the believers. (:12)
- If anyone's name not found written in the Book of Life – he was thrown into the lake of fire. (:15)

This is the separation of the sheep from the goats. This is where the whole world is resurrected and each goes to his judgment, either to eternal life or to eternal death.

**THERE IS NOW, AFTER REVELATION 20, NO ONE ELSE REMAINING EXCEPT GOD'S RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE.** They are judged solely on whether or not they know Jesus Christ, the son of God, and have believed in his gospel for salvation.

## **REVELATION 21 – THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH**

:1 The New Heaven and New Earth are created and come into being.

Other passages describe the New Heaven and New Earth ...

- Isaiah 11:6-9 <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- Isaiah 65:17 <sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.
- 2 Peter 3:10-13 <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Rev. 21:1-8 – The Initial Description of the City

:2 – the Strange Description of the City

:3-4 – The Covenantal Promise

21:9 – The Declaration of the Angel = I will show you \_\_\_\_\_

21:10ff – The Description of the Bride = the Description of the City

**REVELATION 22 – PERFECTION OF THE ETERNAL STATE = THE EARTH IS NOW FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD.**



this book pulls all the metaphors and symbols of the Bible and shows how they all relate to God's redemptive plan of moving from Abraham to "every family of the earth" being blessed through Abraham.

The Church Age is Predicted and Explained: Rev. 2-3 7 Letters to the Churches

The Scene in Heaven – Rev. 4-5

Notice what they are singing in heaven ...

Revelation 5:7-10 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

THE DAY OF GOD'S SALVATION AND JUDGMENT IS COMING!

Notice that the day of Gospel Proclamation is ending, and the Day of Judgment and Culmination is approaching.

Revelation 6:9-11 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

Notice the 144,000 Sealed Servants of God which represent ALL BELIEVERS and Christ's great culmination of salvation and judgment on our behalf.

Revelation 7:3-17 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. 5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, 6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, 7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000. 9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE are marked to protect them in the midst of God's judgment coming! The 144,000 represent God's complete people – JEWS AND GENTILES – and is a symbolic number representing ALL OF GOD'S ELECT AND CHOSEN PEOPLE.

### Figurative Uses of Thousand in Scripture

Psalm 50:9-11 9 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, 10 for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. (Hebrew parallelism tells us that 1,000 means "all" or "every")

2 Peter 3:7-9 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (does God see the 1,001<sup>st</sup> day as different than one day? No, God sees "all" days as one day, not just a thousand.

Thousand used symbolically means = all, every, complete ...

144 = 12 x 12 (12 OT x 12 NT) = all the people of God.

### The Final Rebellion (no repentance) as the Judgment of God is about to Fall

Revelation 9:20-21 20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood-- idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 11:18 18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 14:6-7 6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Revelation 16:9 9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Revelation 16:18-21 18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. 19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. 21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Revelation 17:1-2 NIV Revelation 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. 2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." (The Judgment of Satan and the Demonic World)

Revelation 17:14 14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Revelation 18:4-6 4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; 5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. 6 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

## THE SCENE AGAIN IN HEAVEN – Rev. 19

Revelation 19:5-16 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God

Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

## THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH – Rev. 21

Revelation 21:1-5 NIV Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:9 - 22:1 9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

2 Peter 3:10-13 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will

melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

ACT 3 IS NOW FINISHED –

God has now vanquished the Satanic realm by Christ – the one struck by Satan has now killed him.

God has now vanquished all people and nations who stand against him – and judged them – and closed the doors of hell.

God has now set-up a NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH ...

It is full of believers from the OT and from the NT

It is perfected ... each piece of the city (believers) are perfected and pure – like precious stones.

It is a place where God lives among his people ...

It is a place where evil or sorrow will never enter.

There is a people – now filling the earth – who love and glorify God ...

THE EARTH IS NOW FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD – AND WILL FOREVER BE ...

Let's pray ...