

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
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## *The Triumph of God over His Enemies* **Revelation 14**

**Keywords:** Revelation, End Times, Beast, AntiChrist, Unholy Trinity, Millennial Kingdom, Wrath, Judgment

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** None

**SermonAudio Blurb:** In the final vision of this interlude John now shows us the triumph of God over His enemies. We see the advent of the earthly kingdom and we see the terrifying judgment of God. Truly this chapter gives us reason to understand what it means to fear God.

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. We finish today with this key interlude.
  - 1. So far we have learned of what I am calling the unholy trinity.
  - 2. We also see the powers that lurk behind and through all of the earthly powers that we tend to focus upon instead.
  - 3. We saw the hatred that Satan has for Jesus Christ and for the people of God.
  - 4. But we also saw his hatred for people in general. He is there god, but he is a terrible master who only seeks to bring them woe.
- B. From here he picks back up with the final out-workings of God's judgments leading to eternity.
  - 1. Remember this part is not in chronological order rather it serves to give a preview of what is to come. It gives us a very large overview.
  - 2. There are a series of visions and proclamations that flow quickly from one point to another.
- C. But you also see a shift if perspective here.
  - 1. Chapters 12-13 you see the actions of the unholy trinity. You see their power and their evil.
  - 2. Now the perspective shifts to God and the vision is very, very different.
  - 3. It is a reminder for all of us to keep the plans and purposes of God in mind as we see bad things happen.
    - a. Hevel happens.

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- b. Ungodly appear to triumph and live well. Justice is often perverted.
- c. Psalm 73 (very brief sense of it. Key point is that what looks secure is not secure)
- 4. But the day of God's wrath is coming and on that day full and true justice will be meted out. And here we have a glimpse into it.
- D. Flow of passage—three visions.
  - 1. First vision deals with the 144,000 (1-5).
  - 2. Second vision deals with various angels and their messages (6-13).
  - 3. Third vision deals with the judgment of God upon those who are in rebellion to Him (14-20).

## **II. The First Vision----144,000.**

- A. Front and center we have the Lamb displayed.
  - 1. The Lamb who began this who journey we have taken so far through this important book.
  - 2. The Lamb who was slain for our transgressions that He might bring us into glory fully forgiven.
  - 3. The Lamb who conquered death thus destroying the power of Satan in His resurrection.
  - 4. The Lamb, who alone was worthy to open the sealed scroll and cause the divine plan of God for the end of time to unfold.
  - 5. Notice also how He is contrasted against Satan, the devouring dragon of old.
  - 6. And notice where He is found, at Mount Zion.
    - a. Remember chapter 11:1-2. The city of Jerusalem is attack and subjugated during the Tribulation.
    - b. But now the King has come and here He stands.
- B. Like just about everything else in Revelation, here is a debate on to what Mount Zion refers.
  - 1. It could be the heavenly city, Jerusalem.
    - a. The usual argument is that the singing is in heaven in vss 2-3.

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- b. “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect” (Hebrews 12:22-23).
  2. A second view is that it is a new city that God will bring down to earth while Jesus reigns.
  3. Another view see it as the earthly city of Jerusalem.
    - a. This would fit the flow up to this point that everything is coming together toward the destruction of Satan, *et al.* and the triumph of Jesus Christ.
    - b. Prophetically in Scripture, Zion came to symbolize the place where Messiah would come as the deliverer of Israel and where He would gather together His people (Psalm 48:1ff; Isaiah 24:23; Joel 2:32; Zephaniah 14:10; Romans 11:26).
    - c. I hold to this position.
    - d. So what we have here is John speaking of Christ's return at the end of the Tribulation. We know that because the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion.
      - (1) So it is a vision of victory and joy.
      - (2) It is a vision of Satan's impending defeat.
      - (3) It is a vision of the beginning of Jesus' reign upon the earth, fulfilling countless prophecies in the bible.
- C. 144,000.
  1. We already saw them and there is no reason here to make them a different group unless clear evidence points to it.
  2. They are the men from the nation of Israel in chapter 7.
  3. They are the ones with whom Satan makes war with at the end of chapter 12.
  4. Here we see them coming out on the other side of this time. Either they came out alive through the tribulation or were killed and are now raised to stand beside Jesus Christ at the beginning of what is known as the millennial kingdom.

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- a. Give basic explanation of that.
  - b. All Christians are now changed as described in places such as 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
5. Their character — What were these 144,000 (4-5)?
- a. Male.
  - b. Virgins.
  - c. Faithful to Christ.
  - d. Purchased for a unique service.
  - e. Truthful.
  - f. Blameless.
  - g. What is the point? These are men who are single-minded in their mission and focus.
    - (1) They are men because they are preachers. They were tasked with going into the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ called men and women everywhere to repent.
    - (2) They were not captured in the worries of this world that comes with marriage, and that is the point of that description. To be faithful and also sexually active is to be married. Anything else is sin.
    - (3) They were men who were unafraid of the hard message that they were to deliver. Not men who soft-sold the gospel. Not in it for popularity or some money. Their reputation before this world did not matter.
6. They functioned as missionaries. Think of this in light of the mission effort of today.
- a. 144,000 is about the same number of missionaries throughout the world right now. But so many are diffused in their tasks and purposes.
  - b. Here we have the point of the spear in this massive group of men focused on one thing, calling people to repent and come in faith to Jesus Christ.

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7. The song (2-3).
  - a. Who are the “they” in vs 3?
    - (1) It is not the 144,000. They are at Jerusalem with Jesus. This is coming from heaven.
    - (2) It apparently is an angelic chorus.
      - (a) But it is the singular ‘voice’ of vs 2. Notice how it is called ‘a sound of many waters.’
      - (b) It is the lifting up of many voices to sing this song making them one voice.
  - b. Notice that they are singing a new song.
    - (1) To whom?
      - (a) Before God’s throne.
      - (b) And before the living creatures and the elders.
    - (2) What is unique about this song?
      - (a) It is a song only the 144,000 can learn.
      - (b) All others who are saved shall never learn this song.
      - (c) This gives us a bit of a glimpse of what the eternity will look like and function. Though all who are saved shall experience their salvation to the fullest this does not mean that everyone’s experience will be the same. Heaven is not a Communist’s dream of a collective.
      - (d) For eternity these men shall share something together that the rest of the redeemed shall not possess.
      - (e) We ought to remember that the bible is plain that when we each face judgment that reward and loss shall be ours based on our faithfulness and performance in doing good works.
    - (3) This also speaks to the power of song. Songs for lamenting and songs for rejoicing. Here, it is a song of redemption

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and triumph. Likely a song of God's faithfulness and His ability to save to the uttermost those who are His.

## **III. Angelic announcements (6-13).**

- A. These come in rapid fire for they are summing up what will be described in greater detail in the coming chapters.
- B. First angel (6-7):
  - 1. What is his task?
    - a. The eternal gospel.
    - b. To preach it to the whole earth.
  - 2. What is his message?
    - a. Fear God.
      - (1) Worship Him.
      - (2) To surrender yourself to Him.
    - b. Give Him glory.
      - (1) This is an idiom of acknowledging Him as God.
      - (2) Remember Romans 1:18ff.
      - (3) Very similar to Ecclesiastes 12:13.
      - (4) Why? His hour of judgment has come.
    - c. Worship Him as He is.
- C. Second angel (8):
  - 1. Announces the fall of Babylon.
    - a. 16:19.
    - b. 17:5.
    - c. 18:2, 10, 21.
  - 2. What is Babylon? Many views.
    - a. Code name for Jerusalem—a preterist view.

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- b. Very popular to make it refer to Rome, usually seeing it as the RCC.
  - c. The entire world who are not redeemed by Jesus.
  - d. Or the actual city of Babylon.
  - e. I hold to this last view but it will be developed later in the book. But it is worth noting how this city is separated from all of the nations in vs 8.
3. The accusation is that this city was responsible for corrupting the world in immorality. It is a city of incredible influence and evil (8).
- D. Third angel (9-11).
1. Here is the judgment warning to those who worship the beast.
  2. To choose to take the mark of the beast is to put yourself in hell—it is that simple.
  3. Note how this helps us understand that this is an actual mark. It is not speaking of a spiritual mark or that it symbolizes non-Christians. This is an actual choice to have this mark. A person made a decision to have it put upon him. This can't simply be an unbeliever, all of humanity is born into sin and death; their god is Satan apart from God's saving work. They don't decide to follow Satan.
  4. Note the description of hell in vss 10-11.
    - a. The wrath of God.
      - (1) It will be full strength.
      - (2) There will be no mercy in the slightest.
    - b. Torment with fire and brimstone.
      - (1) The angels will observe this.
      - (2) So will Jesus.
      - (3) So will those saved, Isaiah 66:24.
    - c. Why is this description being given?
      - (1) vs 12 and 13.

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- (2) Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
  - (3) The call to repent because the Kingdom of God was at hand was because of the wrath of God (cf. Matthew 3:7).
  - (4) It was the message Paul gave the people of Athens (Acts 17:30-31).
- d. May God open your eyes to the terrors that await you if you hear these words and your heart is hard to Jesus Christ. This is your end.

## **IV. The harvest (14-20).**

- A. Here he comes back to the wrath of God on the earth.
- B. This last section symbolically portrays what chapters 15 and 16 will say explicitly.
- C. Old Testament allusions— "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness. (Joel 3:13-15).
- D. The destruction and carnage shall be extreme.
  1. Vs 20 is likely hyperbole and has its connection back in Isaiah 63:3-6.
  2. The blood of mankind shall flow like the juice of grapes in a press.

## **V. Conclusion.**

- A. In the passage I just quoted in Joel we heard very hard words. Dark words. But the prophecy goes on:

"And the LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more. And it will come about in that day That the mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD, To water the valley of Shittim. Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed



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innocent blood. But Judah will be inhabited forever, And Jerusalem for all generations. And I will  
avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.” (Joel 3:16-21)

- B. The bible has never lied to you. There are two ways, two roads for each of us.
1. Jesus called on the broad way and the other the narrow.
  2. It is easy to be on the broad one, you just have to live and breath.
  3. But the narrow one is entered only through faith in Jesus Christ. Becoming a follower of Him and Him alone.
  4. One is life and the other way is death.
  5. And each of you is on one or the other. Which is it?

## **VI. Benediction/Doxology.**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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## **Small Group Questions**

- **What are various observations and reactions to the last part of this chapter and the description of God’s wrath?**
- **How often is hell and judgment part of your vocabulary when you talk about the Christian faith? Why?**
- **Spend time praying for those who your CG members are reaching out to with the gospel.**