

Revelation 14:1-13 “Redeemed and Condemned”

READING THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT YOU WILL REPEATEDLY COME ACROSS SCRIPTURES WHERE GOD IS PLEADING, BESEECHING, ALMOST BEGGING HIS PEOPLE NOT TO FORGET HIM. This is what I wrote after reading all of God's pleas. *"God desperately desires for us to never forget Him. He, seemingly, in tears pleads for us to not forget Him. He says write my laws on your heart, write them on your foreheads, doorposts, everywhere so you don't forget me."*

14 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. **3** They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. **6** Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— **7** saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." **8** And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." **9** Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever;

and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." **12** Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **13** Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Hamilton gives us a great cliff note on Revelation chapter 13 In chapter 13 John has shown Satan's war against the church using powerful deception, and he doesn't want anyone who believes in Jesus to decide that it would be easier to give in than to resist. He doesn't want anyone to conclude that it would be better to join the world and Satan than to be faithful to Jesus. Satan's persecution of the church will be awful. People might not be able to buy or sell food. Fathers might not be able to provide for their families. Christians will be put to death, and it might even look like Christianity has been stamped out altogether. Still, John gives us this passage so that we will never give up. John gives us this passage so that we will never join the world in its idolatry and immorality. John gives us this passage to enable us to persevere to the end and be saved. **PRAY**

Now John tells the embattled Christians in his audience that Satan will not have the last word. How we all need this reminder and inspiration... run on runner!

John will give assurance to the redeemed in 14:1-5, warn the wicked in 14:6-11, and then encourage the righteous in 14:12, 13.

Chapter 14 verse 1... John tells us what he saw in 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one 144,000, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. **Not 143,999: none are missing!** **As though God says, "I have lost none."** **These 144,000 were last seen in Revelation 7, where they were identified as a group of Jewish believers who minister during the great tribulation, and are given a seal of protection throughout that period. Again, imagine, 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams on the loose. Since they stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb, it shows that they emerge victorious from the great tribulation. The beast of Revelation 13 certainly has not defeated the 144,000; here they are triumphant, worshipping, and standing firm with Jesus.**

The 144,000 are like **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** who survived the fiery furnace in **Daniel 3:19-25**. They prove God's ability to preserve His people.



Like Daniel the key was in their hearts. *They too purposed in **advance** that there would be no compromise in their commitment to God.*
 In their hearts they were God's kids, and they were true to that identity.
 They were **faithful to God, and as we will see God was likewise faithful to them.**

You see dear Church there is a vast difference between holding a **belief** and entering into a **conviction**. One is a matter of **INTELLECT**, the other is a matter of the **WILL**. One says, "I am **convinced**." The other says, "I am **committed**".

You may argue for beliefs, but true convictions you will die for. A belief is something **held in the hand**, the temptations and storms can dislodge this and sweep it away... A conviction is **held in the heart!** It is stitched into the very fabric of one's being... no pressure or storm can dislodge this... **a conviction is belief with boots on...** ready to march, ready to fight, ready to die.

Jesus Christ calls for **CONVICTION**... deep seated, unshakable, steadfast, immovable conviction. A relationship with Jesus that is so tight it can handle the blast of trials and temptations. Our culture is calling on us to bow. Bow to compromise, bow to lust, bow to pride, bow to the things of this world. **only true purpose, conviction and devotion to Jesus will weather the constant beating of the devil, the flesh and the WORLD...**

Character is forged in the small decisions in life and manifested in the big ones... if you don't live for Jesus you will never be able to die for Him.



For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; not bowing meant death...

If you wait to make commitments and convictions in the heat of battle you've waited too long. You'll buckle under to temptation.



THE 144,000 NEVER BOW AND GOD PROTECTS THEM!

Jesus and the 144,000 standing on **MOUNT ZION...** the ancient name for the hills that make up Jerusalem - is the place where the Messiah gathers His redeemed and reigns over the earth (Psalm 48, Isaiah 24:23, Joel 2:32, Obadiah 17 and 21, Micah 4:1, 4:7).

 **Hebrews 12:22 describes the “Mount Zion” that is part of “the heavenly Jerusalem.”**

VERSE 1, WHAT HE SAW, IN VERSE 2 THIS IS WHAT JOHN HEARD And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. This is the voice of God (Revelation 1:15 and 4:5). And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. We remember that the elders of Revelation 5:8 have harps. **VERSE 1 WHAT HE SAW, WHAT JOHN HEARD IN VERSE 2 now verse 3 what the 144,000 were doing** **3** They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth.

Hughes adds this truth, “The redeemed are singing “a new song,” just as we saw the heavenly court sing a new song in 5:9 when Jesus took the scroll. New acts of conquest call for new songs of praise. Finally, note that this is an exclusive song. There will not be Hindus, Buddhists, or Muslims singing that song, nor will there be decent people who were consistent with their own atheism. Only those who put explicit faith in Jesus will sing this song.”

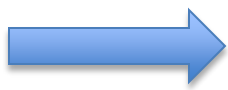
VERSE 1 WHAT HE SAW, WHAT JOHN HEARD IN VERSE 2 verse 3 what the 144,000 were doing, Now in verses 4&5 the characteristics of the 144,000 **4** These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

 I think this figurative description of the 144,000 as virgins means they were pure.



The redeemed refused to drink the wine of the sexual immorality of Babylon's worldliness.

★ Babylon is a symbol of the world powers that refuse to submit to God.



Do you need to repent? Let me exhort you to renew your commitment to sexual and spiritual purity right now. If the Spirit has sealed you, you will do so. Do it with all you might.

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

Because they are described as **firstfruits**, many have thought that they themselves will be instrumental in God's plan for bringing in a great harvest during the tribulation. **Revelation 7:9** describes an innumerable company saved out of the Great Tribulation, and these 144,000 described as **firstfruits**, may be used to preach the gospel to those who will be saved in this period.

5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.


Following Jesus is the opposite of idolatry. Do you know how to keep from being deceived by the beast who looks like the Lamb but talks like the dragon? Follow Jesus wherever He goes. *That is what verse 4 says, "These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes."* These first two descriptions of the 144,000 show that they did not commit idolatry and the sexual immorality that accompanies it.

Verses 1-5 were given to motivate endurance. Those who are embattled behold those who have overcome.

John now describes the proclamations of three angels in verses 6-11. **The first, in 14:6, 7, proclaims the gospel, which is the truth that exposes the lies told by Satan and believed by the world. The second, in 14:8, announces that the world's party is over because Babylon has fallen. The third, in 14:9-11, describes the everlasting torment with no rest that God will bring on those who worship the beast and align themselves with the world against God and the gospel.**

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting

gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—



This message is described as “an eternal gospel.” This message is always true, from everlasting to everlasting, and it is good news. Be astonished by this claim of a message that is forever and good!

If you know the gospel, you know the good news—everlasting good news.

This means that the gospel is the everlasting good news for the Muslims in the Arab world, for the Buddhists in Southeast Asia, for the Hindus in India, and for the atheists in Europe. The gospel applies to them—they don't have some other way to God.


These truths are as basic as gravity, and yet many people foolishly deny them. No one can make gravity not apply to them; no one can levitate, or one can fly. And no one can escape the implications of this eternal gospel.




PLEASE GOD... “GIVE US LIVES THAT DEMONSTRATE OUR EMBRACE OF THIS ETERNAL GOSPEL.”

This is an Angel preaching the gospel... One author noted, “However, this is the only place in the New Testament where we see angels preaching the gospel. In God's sublime wisdom, He has chosen to give that responsibility to people alone, apart from the rarest of exceptions.

Verse 6 continues... to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—



This can be a valid fulfillment of Jesus' promise in [Matthew 24:14](#) that the gospel would be preached to all the world before His second coming. But this can never be a valid excuse for neglecting the urgency of missions. God has not given the *responsibility* for spreading the gospel to angels, but unto His people.



7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; **This is what the angel tells the whole world to do. They can do this and give glory to God and worship Him** willingly in this life, or be compelled to **give glory to Him** later. It is certain that one day all will **give glory to God.** [Philippians 2:9-11](#) says, *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him*

and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Final Call: This one is “good news” for God’s people—but bad news for the rebellious “earth dwellers”: “Fear God...” “Judgment is come.”

and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Because the judgment of God is so evident on the earth in great tribulation, it is no wonder why the crowd of those saved through the great tribulation can't be numbered (Revelation 7:9-14).

How could any man believe there is no creator... • Johannes Kepler (1571-1630): “Divine Mathematician” whose mind could be discovered in the precise mechanics of the universe.”

• Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727): “Divine Presence” who set the universe in motion: “This most beautiful system of the Sun, planet and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of the intelligent and powerful Being.”

8 And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, **Angel #2: First mention of Babylon: it will take enter stage in Chapters 17 & 18. Babylon has been Satan’s Headquarters from the beginning.**


WALVOORD "PROPHETICALLY, 'BABYLON' SOMETIMES REFERS TO A LITERAL CITY, SOMETIMES TO A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM, SOMETIMES TO A POLITICAL SYSTEM, ALL STEMMING FROM THE EVIL CHARACTER OF HISTORIC BABYLON." In 17:5 the kingdom of Babylon will be symbolically depicted as a “prostitute.”

because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” **the main idea is *spiritual* fornication - the worship of other gods. However, we are never surprised to see spiritual fornication accompanied with literal immorality.** This second angel’s proclamation is a warning and a call to repentance. It warns us to flee from Babylon lest we share her doom, and it commands us to repent of our attempts to combine the pleasures of God with the pleasures of the world.

Now in verse 9 **The third angel proclaims the punishment that God will bring on those who commit sexual immorality with Babylon and idolize the beast.**

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, **No one will "casually" or "accidentally" take the mark. The connection between worshipping the beast and taking the mark will be clear enough.**

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **The wine in the cup is associated with wrath (the ancient Greek word *thymos*), which describes a *passionate* anger. The cup itself is associated with indignation (the ancient Greek word *orge*) which is anger from a *settled disposition*.**



For a while, a short while, idolatry and identification with Satan may make your life better. But there is a terrible price to pay. This message is meant to preserve believers and to call unbelievers to repent.

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **This shows that the suffering of hell is *real torment*, that it is *painful and repulsive*.**

Guzik adds this fascinating Biblical understanding to Hell, "This shows that God is not absent from hell. He is there in all His holiness and righteous judgment. Those who are in hell will *wish* God were absent, but He will not be. It is wrong to say that hell will be devoid of the presence of God; but it will be devoid of His love. The presence of Jesus will be there, but only the presence of His holy justice and wrath against sin."

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; **forever and ever means "forever and ever."** **"Literally 'into the ages of ages,' the strongest expression of eternity of which the Greek is capable."** **Hell lasts forever because God is infinitely important.** If Hell is offensive to you, it is because you have not yet realized how significant God is.

Continuing verse 11... and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast

and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." **12** Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **We can only imagine what courage and comfort this passage will give embattled, persecuted saints during the Great Tribulation. Clearly, God wants to encourage His people to be steadfast in times of trial, focused on what blessed rest and reward awaits them in eternity.**

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Psalm 116 verse 15... Precious in the sight of the Lord *is* the death of His saints.

Missler, "The literalness of "hell" is a serious issue (which we tend to avoid addressing). God will not mix mercy with this judgment (Ps 75:8; Hab 3:2). The Seven Bowls are coming. We may not like the concept of torment, but we are dealing with holy love—both words are paramount. True righteousness is also the issue. The time to deal with this is now, not then. "Then" is too late."

Biblical descriptions of Hell

- 1. Fire**
- 2. Darkness**
- 3. No Rest**
- 4. Unquenchable thirst**

THE TERRORS OF HELL BY William C. Nichols I cannot leave without one final word to those who think they are converted, but are not; and also, to those who know themselves to be unconverted. Can you conceive of eternity? Stop now and try to imagine being tormented unceasingly, forever, without end. Does this not terrify you? Never a chance for a moment's rest. Never a drop of water to cool your parched throat. Think again of how long eternity is. Try to imagine it: day and night, forever and ever, burned with fire like a spider in a furnace of flames. Shrieking, howling, wailing, cursing the day you were born, and being cursed by the devils and damned souls around you eternally. Remembering, forever remembering, how you were warned on earth and how you ignored those warnings: self-satisfied and self-deceived that all was well with your soul. Job's wife told him to curse God and die. Unless you repent and flee to Jesus Christ, who is your only hope, you shall curse God eternally and be tormented by

Him in His presence in the awful fullness of His wrath, and you shall never die. You shall never die. You shall never die! Eternity is forever!

Are you ready to face eternity? The only thing that will deliver you from the eternal wrath of God is the eternal gospel of God.

Remember dearest beloved of God, this earth is the only hell we will ever know but for the unbeliever this earth is the only heaven they will ever know.

He drank the whole cup of the full fury of God's justice against sin. If you trust in Jesus, He drank that cup for you.

“It will be worse for unbelievers when He comes that it was for believers while Satan attacked them. So we see the recipients of the promises in 14:1-5, and we see the punishment of the idolatrous and sexually immoral in 14:6-11. Now (14:12) John tells us why he has shown us these things: “Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”