

Revelation 14

The Coming Victory

Introduction

As we have seen in the past, this book will show the coming judgments then there will be a break where God's people are encouraged. This chapter shows that even in the dark times of the Antichrist, Jesus is still in control. We need to remember that this book is the "Revelation of Jesus Christ." Chapter 14 shows a glimpse of God's grace and goodness. This is a great contrast to Chapters 12 and 13. Chapter 14 gives a series of visions and pronouncements that show the ultimate victory of Christ. These are not given in chronological sequence but they do give a great overview of the rest of the Tribulation.

I. The Presentation of the Just, v1-5

These verses show us Jesus and the 144,000. They are described in detail, and they give a great example for Christians today to follow.

A. The Savior, v1- Here we see Jesus again presented as the Lamb. This is the same Lamb that stood in 5:6, and the saving Lamb of 7:9-17. Jesus is the central theme of the book of Revelation. This chapter of encouragement and refreshment starts out with Jesus.

B. The Scene, v1-3. The scene here is in heaven. It is referred to as Mount Zion, this is very important in prophecy. In some places it seems to be referred to as heaven, and in the Millennium it will be the earthly center of control for the Lord. The view here is of Jesus in heaven. His voice is described as it was in Rev. 1:15.

C. The Servants, v3-5. This passage gives another description of the 144,000. These are the same people from Rev. 7. We see their spiritual characteristics given here.

1. They stand for God- This group is boldly proclaiming the righteousness of God in a world that hates God. It is a world that does not want to repent or acknowledge God. They have been sealed by God and stand in contrast to those who take the mark of the Beast.

2. They sing to the Lord- We find here that they sing a new song that is special to them. The word new means-qualitatively new, literally fresh, not new in time. This same word new is used in Rev. 2:17, 3:12, 4:8, 11, 21:1-2. Notice this is a song that "no man could learn." This has the idea of understanding. Those who are not redeemed cannot comprehend the praise and worship that is directed towards Jesus.

3. They are separated- Notice they are "not defiled," "redeemed," there is "no guile" in them, and "they are without fault." This all points to their purity and separation. They are free from spiritual fornication and immorality. They are totally pure and dedicated to the

cause of Christ. Theirs is a testimony that is consistent and that has true power. As they serve the Lord their hearts have been prepared in righteousness and holiness.

II. The Pronouncements of Judgment, v6-13

In these verses there are four announcements. Three are made by angels and one is from a voice in heaven. These are important warnings and judgments. All of these again show the deity of Christ. Even in a world that seems out of control, Jesus is still on the throne.

A. The Declaration of the Gospel, v6-7 This is a great change. All through Scripture God has primarily used man to spread His message. Here an angel presents the gospel. Notice that he does not use any "technique," he does not give an invitation, he does not extend forgiveness, but he calls for repentance. All true salvation messages must include repentance! Again we see the great mercy of God, even in times of judgment. This passage is the complete fulfillment of Mt. 24:14.

B. The Destruction of Babylon, v8 This is the first mention of Babylon in this book. Babylon in Scripture refers to the city, first mentioned in Genesis 10, and 11. As used in the book of Revelation it refers to a city and a system. It will be the religious system that is headed by the False Prophet and its object of worship will be the Antichrist. This ecumenical system will be destroyed by the Lord.

C. The Deceived of the Antichrist, v9-11 A great warning is given to the people of the earth. If you take the mark of the Beast, you will spend eternity in hell. Hell is a real place, these are not figurative words. The Word of God is very clear on this matter. If anyone rejects the gospel and accepts the Antichrist there are no second chances. This same idea is also taught in 2Thes. 2:3-12. The book of Revelation makes it clear that many will be deceived and believe this lie.

D. The Death of the Saints, v12-13 Those who trust Christ in the Tribulation will suffer persecution. Many will die. Here those who are killed are called "Blessed." The time will come for them to be given rest, and the Lord will recognize them for their labor. Notice their works follow them. This is probably the same group referred to in 7:9-17.

III. The Preview of Justice, v14-20

This chapter opens showing Jesus as the Lamb, here he is seen as the Son of man. There is quite a contrast. Jesus is preparing to judge the world. The angels will assist in this judgment.

A. The final separation, v14-16 The parable of Jesus in Mt. 13:37-47, is probably the harvest referred to here. The parable describes wheat and tares. According to *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, "tares bear a close resemblance to wheat until the ears appear, then the difference is disclosed. When Jesus judges the world, the difference in the wheat and tares will be obvious. The tares will have the mark of the Beast!"

B. The final battle, v17-20 The battle of Armageddon is described in Rev. 19. Here in Rev. 14, we have a preview of the coming judgment. The final wrath of God will be poured out on the forces of the Antichrist. This battle will be a one sided slaughter. Verse 20 gives a picture of the

great destruction. The blood will be approximately four feet deep and cover a 200 mile area. All the modern weapons will not help. These people will be killed by the sharp sword that goes out of the mouth of Jesus. It will be total victory for Christ and justice for those who have been killed in the Tribulation.

Conclusion

This chapter is one of encouragement. When there seems like there is no hope, Jesus is still in control, and He still has a plan. In our lives today we need to remember this lesson. He knows what we face, and He is in control. Since this is true we need to focus on serving the Lord, and not let our situations dictate our service or our joy.