



Date: 10-11-2026

When the Beast Doesn't Win

Text: Revelation 14

Revelation 14 answers two natural questions:

1. What happens to those who refuse the beast and die?
2. What happens to the dragon, the beast, and those who follow them?

What happens to those who refuse the beast and die?

Revelation 14:1–13 NLT

1 Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. 3 This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following

the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. 5 They have told no lies; they are without blame. 6 And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal Good News to proclaim to the people who belong to this world--to every nation, tribe, language, and people. 7 "Fear God," he shouted. "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water." 8 Then another angel followed him through the sky, shouting, "Babylon is fallen--that great city is fallen--because she made all the nations of the world drink the wine of her passionate immorality." 9 Then a third angel followed them, shouting, "Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand 10 must drink the wine of God's anger. It has been poured full strength into God's cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. 11 The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the beast and his statue and have accepted the mark of his name." 12 This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!"

Notes:

Those Who Die _____ Wake Up _____

What happens to the dragon, the beast, and those who follow them?

Revelation 14:8–20 NLT

8 Then another angel followed him through the sky, shouting, "Babylon is fallen--that great city is fallen--because she made all the nations of the world drink the wine of her passionate immorality." 9 Then a third angel followed them, shouting, "Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand 10 must drink the wine of God's anger. It has been poured full strength into God's cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. 11 The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the beast and his statue and have accepted the mark of his name." 12 This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!" 14 Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like the Son of Man. He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came from the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, "Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe." 16 So the one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested. 17 After that, another angel came from the Temple in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. 18 Then another angel, who had power to destroy with fire, came from the altar. He shouted to the angel with the sharp sickle, "Swing your sickle now to gather the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for they are ripe for judgment." 19 So the angel swung his sickle

over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream about 180 miles long and as high as a horse's bridle.

Notes:

Those Who Seem Victorious Face Certain _____

Closing Application — Which Ending Are You Living Toward?

Who will you be standing with when the story is over?

1. Stay faithful when obedience costs you.
2. Do not envy what appears successful without God.
3. Keep your eyes on the Lamb.

Life Group Questions — Revelation 14

1. Get to Know You

If you were suddenly required to teach a 30-minute class on something you know way too much about that has absolutely no practical value, what would your topic be?

2. Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 14:1–20. How does this chapter answer the two questions raised by Revelation 13: What happens to those who remain faithful to Jesus even when it costs them their lives, and what happens to the beast, Babylon, and those who follow them? How do verses 12–13 help us understand what true victory looks like from heaven's perspective?

3. Application

Which of these three actions do you most need to practice right now: Stay Faithful When Obedience Costs You, Do Not Envy What Appears Successful Without God, or Keep Your Eyes on the Lamb? Why? What is one specific way you can live that out this week?

Expanded Notes on Revelation 14:8–20 — A Dispensationalist Perspective

Revelation 14 contrasts the apparent success of the beast in chapter 13 with the certainty of God's victory. Satan's influence, the Antichrist's authority, and the persecution of believers will end. This passage announces Babylon's downfall, warns against worshiping the beast, encourages faithful believers, and previews judgment upon the earth.

These notes follow the traditional dispensational, pretribulational understanding: the church is raptured before the future seven-year Tribulation, and Christ returns afterward to establish His thousand-year kingdom. Within that framework, the believers addressed here are Tribulation saints. Revelation 14 provides a preview of outcomes developed more fully in chapters 16–19, rather than a strictly sequential account of every event. [John Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, chapter 14.](#)

Verse 8: Babylon's Fall Is Certain

The second angel announces the collapse of Babylon before John describes its destruction in detail. The announcement presents its downfall as settled: what God has determined will surely happen.

Dispensational interpreters generally understand Babylon as a future center or system of organized rebellion against God, involving false religion, political power, and commercial wealth. Revelation 17 emphasizes its religious corruption and relationship with the beast, while chapter 18 emphasizes its economic influence. Interpreters differ over whether its geographical center will be a rebuilt city of Babylon or another location.

The wine of Babylon's immorality describes its seductive influence upon the nations. Its corruption includes spiritual unfaithfulness—drawing people into idolatry and opposition to God—as well as moral wickedness. The world may admire Babylon's wealth and power, but neither can protect it from judgment. [David Guzik, commentary on Revelation 14.](#)

Verses 9–11: Worshiping the Beast Brings Eternal Judgment

The third angel warns those who worship the beast and its image or receive its mark. Revelation 13:16–17 connects the mark with economic participation; Revelation 14 reveals its eternal consequences. In this context, receiving the mark expresses allegiance to the beast's rebellious order.

Babylon offers the intoxicating wine of corruption, but its followers must drink the wine of God's wrath. "Full strength" communicates the severity of judgment. God's patience must never be mistaken for permission to continue rejecting Him.

The references to torment, rising smoke, and the absence of rest support the traditional dispensational understanding of conscious, everlasting punishment. The presence of the Lamb reveals that Jesus exercises judgment as well as providing salvation. The One who died for sinners also possesses authority to judge those who reject Him.

The warning therefore concerns more than surviving the Tribulation. Preserving temporary security through allegiance to the beast leads to eternal loss.

Verses 12–13: Endurance and the Blessing of Dying in the Lord

Against this warning, John describes God's people as those who obey His commands and maintain their faith in Jesus. Their endurance demonstrates their allegiance to Christ under persecution.

From a dispensational perspective, salvation during the Tribulation remains salvation by God's grace through faith. Obedience does not purchase redemption; it expresses the reality of faith. Revelation 7:14 identifies the redeemed multitude with cleansing through the Lamb's blood.

Verse 13 offers particular comfort to believers facing martyrdom. Those who die "in the Lord" are blessed because death ends their suffering and brings rest. The Spirit confirms this promise, giving divine assurance when earthly circumstances appear hopeless.

Their deeds follow them because God remembers their faithful service. Their works are evidence of devotion and grounds for reward, rather than the basis of salvation. Revelation 20:4 later describes the resurrection and reign of those killed for their testimony and refusal to worship the beast.

Verses 14–16: The Son of Man and the Harvest

The figure seated on the cloud is commonly identified as Jesus Christ. “Son of Man” recalls Daniel 7:13–14, where this figure receives dominion and a kingdom. His golden crown signifies victory, while the sickle portrays His authority to reap the earth.

The angel’s announcement from the temple communicates heaven’s appointed time for the harvest. Judgment proceeds according to God’s determination.

Dispensational interpreters differ about this first harvest. Walvoord understands it as judgment in general, followed by the climactic judgment pictured in the grape harvest. Others understand it as the gathering of the righteous, followed by judgment upon the wicked. Both readings emphasize Christ’s authority over the final outcome. [Walvoord, chapter 14](#).

Verses 17–20: The Winepress of God’s Wrath

The grape harvest unmistakably portrays judgment. The ripened grapes represent humanity’s rebellion reaching the point when God acts decisively. The imagery recalls Joel 3:13 and Isaiah 63:1–6 and anticipates Christ treading the winepress in Revelation 19:15.

Dispensational interpreters commonly connect this scene with the judgments surrounding Christ’s return and the Armageddon campaign. “Outside the city” is often understood as outside Jerusalem. The extraordinary description of blood extending approximately 180 miles conveys immense destruction. Interpreters differ over its precise physical fulfillment, but the passage clearly anticipates devastating judgment upon God’s enemies. [Tony Garland, *A Testimony of Jesus Christ, Revelation 14*](#).