

## Visions of God's Victory and Satan's Defeat Revelation 14:1-20 (Part 22)

**Big idea of chapter 14:** We look at the results of the 7-year tribulation. Celebration for those who follow Christ and wrath for those who follow Satan.

**Revelation 14:1** *Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.*

**Mount Zion:** The word Zion occurs over 150 times in the Bible. It basically means "fortification" and has the idea of being "raised up" as a "monument." Zion is described both as the city of David and the city of God (Jerusalem). The word Zion expands in scope and takes on an additional, spiritual meaning, as Israel (Isaiah 60:14) and heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22).

**Psalm 87:1-3** *On the holy mount stands the city he founded; 2 the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob. 3 Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God.*

**Lamb and with him 144,000:** The Lamb is Jesus Christ and the 144,000 are the same people from chapter 7.

- (1) Literal 144,000 Jewish men. Most likely sealed for a purpose. The purpose is almost always evangelism of the world, though it is never stated or implied.
- (2) Symbolic 144,000. Means Jews and not the church. 12 times 12,000 from each tribe. They are called "firstfruits".

**Revelation 14:2-3** *And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.*

**A voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder:** John hears a loud roar. This is most likely the multitudes saved in heaven singing and praising God. **Revelation 19:6**

**No one could learn that song except the 144,000:** This does not indicate that they're the only ones singing, but that they are the ones who experienced the words of the song.

### 1. Believers have something to celebrate.

**Revelation 14:4-5** *It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.*

**Who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins:** Some see this as literal male virgins who abstained from sexual fornication. I believe this is talking about spiritual purity as opposed to spiritual adultery. These Jewish believers will be faithful to the Messiah where their ancestors committed spiritual fornication by worshipping idols and other gods.

**Redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb:** Firstfruits indicate that they are the beginning of a greater harvest that will follow.

**Revelation 14:6** *Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.*

**Another angel:** We will see 3 angels with messages to the whole earth. 1) The gospel, 2) the certain doom of Babylon, 3) The eternal consequences of following the Antichrist

**Matthew 24:14** *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.*

**Revelation 14:7** *And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."*

**The message:** Fear God and give Him glory because the time of grace is over and judgment has come.

**Revelation 14:8** *Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."*

**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great:** In Revelation, Babylon stands for the religious, political, and economical systems in opposition to all that is of God. It is the Antichrist's worldwide political, economic, and religious empire.

- (1) This refers to the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates river in present day Iraq. Saddam Hussein began reconstruction of the ancient city.
- (2) Babylon is code word for Rome which was the central city of government and persecution of Christians during the 1st century. Peter seems to refer to Rome as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13).
- (3) Babylon is the system of idol worship and corrupt earthly government that was born from literal Babylon and experienced first hand by the Jews.

(4) Both literal and symbolic like Hollywood represents both a literal city and its worldwide influence. Babylon may be a literal city as well as the worldwide anti-God influence.

**All nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality:** All nations have been intoxicated, deceived, and seduced by this false system headed by Antichrist. Like a seductive prostitute, the Babylonian system leads men into ignorant drunken adultery with the Antichrist.

**Revelation 14:9-11** *And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."*

**He also will drink the wine of God's wrath:** Those who take the mark of the Antichrist or those who follow the Antichrist will be on the receiving end of God's full wrath. This message is delivered to all the earth.

## **2. We have been given the truth to remove any excuse.**

**Revelation 14:12-13** *Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*

**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord:** Blessed are those who die in the tribulation and are "in the Lord" or "believers in Jesus as the Christ" or "saved". **2 Corinthians 5:1-8**

## **3. For the Christian death is a blessing.**

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**They may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them:** Rest in heaven of the believer is in contrast to the unrest and torment of the unbeliever. Also, the deeds of the tribulation believers of not taking the mark of the beast and staying faithful to the Lord will be a reward and blessing in heaven as much as it was an affliction on earth.

**Revelation 14:14-16** *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." 16 So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

**One like a son of man... a sharp sickle in his hand:** Jesus is seen descending on a cloud to reap a harvest on the earth.

**The earth was reaped:** Many will be killed and the harvesting will speed up towards the end of the tribulation.

**Revelation 14:17-18** *Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe."*

**An angel from the temple and an angel from the altar of incense:** Here the angel from the altar takes us back to the cry of the martyrs who have died and the censor that was cast to the earth on behalf of the prayers of the saints.

**Revelation 14:19-20** *So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.*

**The great winepress of the wrath of God:** God's wrath has been poured out throughout the tribulation. It comes to a peak at the battle of Armageddon in chapter 19 when Christ returns with the saints and destroys all those coming up against Jerusalem.

## **4. God will judge all people.**