

Vision 4 – Part 2: The Beasts and the Harvest

Rev 13-14

The Beast from the Sea

Rev 13:1

1. Rising out of the sea
 - a. Rev 17:15 – And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.”
 - b. Is 17:12 – Ah, the thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters!
 - c. Dan 7:3 – And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.
2. And I saw a beast rising out of the sea
 - a. Job 7:12 – Am I the sea, or a sea monster, that you set a guard over me?
 - b. Ps 74:13 – You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
 - c. Ps 89:9 – You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.
 - d. Is 27:1 – In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.
3. Ten horns (Dan 7:7-8)
4. Blasphemous names – Caesar was called “Lord and God.” During the French revolution, the slogan was “neither God nor man.”
5. Mentioned also in Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

Rev 13:2

1. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth.
 - a. Dan 7:3-7 – And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
 - b. Dan 7:17 – These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.
2. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.



- a. Rev 2:13 – I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- b. Luke 4:5-6 – And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.”
- c. John 12:31 – Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
- d. John 14:30 – I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me
- e. John 16:8-11 – And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
- f. Eph 2:1-2 – And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

Rev 13:3

1. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed
 - a. Rev 13:14 – and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.
 - b. Col 2:15 – He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
 - c. 1 Pet 5:8-10 – Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
2. The whole earth marveled – refers to unbelievers
 - a. Rev 13:8 – and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
 - b. Rev 17:8b – And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Rev 13:4

1. Worshiped the dragon..., and they worshiped the beast (Rev 13:8, 12, 15)
2. Who is like the beast?
 - a. Ex 15:11 – Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
 - b. Ps 35:10 – All my bones shall say, “O Lord, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?”

Rev 13:5

1. And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words



- a. Dan 7:8 – I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.
 - b. Dan 7:11 – I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.
 - c. Dan 7:19-20 – Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.
2. 42 months (Rev 11:2-3; 12:6, 14)

Rev 13:6

1. His dwelling
 - a. Rev 15:5 – After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened
 - b. Rev 21:3 – And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
 - c. Ex 40:34-35 – Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
2. Blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven
 - a. 2 Pet 2:10b-12 – Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction
 - b. Jude 8-10 – Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” 10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

Rev 13:7

1. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.
 - a. Rev 11:7 – And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them
 - b. Dan 7:21 – As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them
2. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation. (contrast with Dan 7:14 – And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.)



Rev 13:8

1. All who dwell on earth (Rev 13:3; 17:8b)
2. Everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain (Rev 3:5; 20:11-15)
 - a. 1 Pet 1:20 – He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you
 - b. Rev 17:8b – And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.
 - c. Eph 1:4a – even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him
 - d. 2 Thes 2:13 – But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
 - e. John 10:28-29 – I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Rev 13:9 – If anyone has an ear, let him hear (Matt 11:15; 13:9, 43; Rev 2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13)

Rev 13:10

1. Captivity...slain

Jer 15:1-2 – Then the Lord said to me, “Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go! 2 And when they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.”’”
2. Sword – short sword or dagger
 - a. Rev 6:4 – And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.
 - b. Heb 11:37a – They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.
 - c. Matt 26:52 – Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”
3. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. (Rev 1:9; 2:2, 3, 19; 3:10; 14:12; John 16:33)

The beast is a counterfeit of Christ. Note the following parallels. (Reformation Study Bible, 2005)

1. The beast, whom Satan brought forth, is an image of Satan (Rev 13:1), just as Christ is the exact image of God, begotten by the Father (Ps 2:7; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3).
2. The beast has ten crowns, while Christ has many crowns (Rev 19:12).
3. The beast has blasphemous names written on him, while Christ has a worthy name, unknown to anyone else, written on him (Rev 19:12). The dragon gives the beast his power, throne and great authority (Rev 13:2), just as Christ has been given power (Rev 5:12-13), a throne (Rev 3:21) and authority (Rev 12:10) from the Father (John 5:21-23).
4. The beast has a seemingly fatal wound from which he recovers – counterfeiting Christ's resurrection (Rev 13:3). The beast's healing is one of the principal features that attract



followers, just as the resurrection of Christ is one of the principal points of evangelistic proclamation.

5. Worship is directed toward both the dragon and the beast, just as Christians worship both the Father and the Son (John 5:23).
6. The beast attracts the worship of the whole world (Rev 13:3), just as Christ is to be worshiped universally.
7. The beast utters blasphemies, while Christ utters the praises of God (Heb 2:12).
8. The beast makes war against the saints, while Christ makes war against the beast (Rev 19:11-21). The song of praise to the beast in verse 4 of Chapter 13 counterfeits the song to God the warrior in Exodus 15:11. The striking juxtaposition of Christ and the beast in Rev 19:11-21 shows that they are the two main warriors in the battle. Christ is the divine warrior, fulfilling the imagery of Exodus 15:3 (see also Is 59:16-18; 63:1-6; Hab 3:3-15; Zech 9:13-16; 14:1-5). The beast is the unholy counterfeit warrior who fulfills the imagery of Daniel 7:1-8.

The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)

Rev 13:11

1. Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth
 - a. Jas 3:15 – This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
 - b. Phil 3:19 – Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
2. It spoke like a dragon
 - a. Matt 7:15 – Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
 - b. John 8:44 – You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
3. Mentioned also in Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

Rev 13:12 – Makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast

1. 1 Cor 10:20-21 – No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.
2. 2 Cor 11:1-5 – I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough
3. 2 Cor 11:12-15 – And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.



15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

4. 1 John 4:1-6 – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Rev 13:13

1. It performs great signs
 - a. 2 Thes 2:9 – The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
 - b. Matt 24:24 – For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
 - c. Dt 13:1-5 – If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.
 - d. Ex 7:11 – Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts.
 - e. Acts 13:6-8 – When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
2. Even making fire come down from heaven
 - a. 1 Ki 18:38 – Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.
 - b. 2 Ki 1:10-12 – But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. 11 Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king's order, ‘Come down quickly!’” 12 But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.



- c. Luke 9:51-55 – When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them.

Rev 13:14

1. It deceives those who dwell on earth
2 Cor 4:4 – In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
2. Telling them to make an image for the beast
Dan 3:1 – King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Rev 13:15

1. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast
 - a. Gen 2:7 – then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
 - b. Rev 11:11 – But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
2. And might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.
Dan 3:6 – And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

Rev 13:16 – to be marked on the right hand or the forehead

1. Gal 2:9 – and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
2. Ex 13:8-9 – You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.
3. Ex 13:14-16 – And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 15 For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ 16 It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.
4. Dt 6:4-9 – Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.



5. Dt 11:18 – You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
6. The beast's mark, like the seal of God applied to the church (Rev 7:1-3), is no outward tattoo or insignia on the body but rather a symbol of the beast's ownership and control of his followers' thoughts (forehead) and deeds (right hands). (Johnson, 2001)
7. In Revelation 14:9 we read: "If any man worships the beast... and receive the mark on his forehead". Here "receiving the mark of the beast" seems to mean "worshipping the beast". Similarly, in Revelation 14:11: "They that worship the beast... and receive the mark of his name". So "receiving the mark of the beast" seems to mean "belonging to the beast and worshipping the beast". The "mark of the beast" is the God-opposing, Christ-rejecting, Church-persecuting spirit of antichrist, wherever and whenever it shows itself. This mark is impressed on the forehead or right hand. The forehead symbolizes the mind, the thought-life, the philosophy of a person. The right hand indicates his deed, action, trade, industry, etc. Therefore receiving the mark of the beast on the forehead or right hand indicates that the person so characterized belongs to the company of those who persecute the Church; and that – either preeminently in what he thinks, says, writes or more emphatically in what he does – this antichristian spirit becomes evident. (Hendriksen, 1967)

Rev 13:17 – so that no one can buy or sell (Rev 6:5-6)

Rev 13:18

1. This calls for wisdom
 - a. Col 2:20-23 – If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
 - b. 1 Cor 2:12-16 – Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.
2. For it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.
 - a. Gen 1:26, 31; sixth seal – Rev 6:12-17; sixth trumpet – Rev 9:13-19; sixth bowl Rev 16:12-16
 - b. Now, man was created on the sixth day. Six, moreover, is not seven and never reaches seven. It always fails to attain to perfection; that is, it never becomes seven. Six means missing the mark, or failure. Seven means perfection or victory. Rejoice, O Church of God! The victory is on your side. The number of the beast is 666, that is, failure upon failure upon failure! It is the number of man, for the beast glories in man; and must fail! (Hendriksen, 1967)

There are parallels between the two witnesses of Chapter 11, which represent the church and the truth, and the second beast of Chapter 13, which represents Satan and lies. (Kistemaker, 2001)



Two Witnesses	Second Beast
Prophets (11:10)	False prophet (16:13; 19:20; 20:10)
Perform signs (11:6)	Performs signs (13:13, 14; 19:20)
Receive authority from God (11:3)	Receives authority from the first beast (13:12)
Torments the inhabitants of the earth (11:10)	Deceives the inhabitants of the earth (13:14)
Two olive trees; lamps (11:4)	Two horns (13:11)
Breath of life from God (11:11)	Breathes into the image of first beast (13:15)

Satan himself attempts to replicate God the Father. He engages in a mock creation in which he brings forth his image out of chaotic waters (Rev 13:1; see parallel at Gen 1:2). Similarly, the false prophet, or beast from the earth, counterfeits the work of the Holy Spirit. Together Satan, the beast and the false prophet form an unholy trio (Rev 16:13), counterfeiting the holy Trinity. Satan, as a deceiver is always trying to make his ways look attractive (2 Cor 11:14-15). Danger lies in the fact that his forgeries often appear close to the real thing, and believers may mistake the one for the other. But when Revelation opens believers' eyes, they see a world of difference between Satan's horrors and God's beauties. Believers can be confident because Satan is only an imitator, not a creator, and his productions are always bestial and degenerate, as he himself is.

The Triumph of God's Church and Judgment of the Wicked

The Lamb

Contrast the false prophet of Chapter 13 with the Lamb of Chapter 14. (Kistemaker, 2001)

False Prophet - Chapter 13	Lamb - Chapter 14
lamb (13:11)	Lamb (14:1, 4)
out of the earth (13:11)	Mount Zion (14:1)
worship of the beast (13:12)	song of the 144,000 (14:3)
beasts's number 666 (13:16)	saints' number 144,000 (14:1)
everyone is enslaved (13:16)	saints are redeemed (14:3)
mark of the beast (13:16, 17)	name of Father and Lamb (14:1)
deception of the beast (13:14)	no lie in their mouth (14:5)

Rev 14:1

1. The Lamb

- Gen 22:7-8 – And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.
- John 1:29 – The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

2. On Mount Zion

- Ps 2:6 – As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.
- Heb 12:22-24 – But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the



assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

- c. Gal 4:26 – But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.
3. And with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads
 - a. Rev 7:3-4 – saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel
 - b. Rev 13:16-17 – Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.
 - c. This scene of the Lamb and his sealed army contrasts sharply with what immediately precedes it. The beast's deluded devotees are branded with the beast's “mark” (*charagma*) on right hand or forehead (Rev 13:16). That mark was associated with the “name of the beast or the number of his name” (13:17), as the divine seal is the name of God and of the Lamb. Both symbolize ownership and control of those who are thus branded. But the beast's mark does not deserve to be called a “seal” (*sphragis*). Seals signify not only ownership but also security, protection under the authority of the One whose name we bear. But the beast's mere “mark” brings those who bear it no shelter from the coming wrath of God. (Johnson, 2001)

Rev 14:2 – Like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder

1. Rev 1:15 – his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters
2. Rev 19:6 – Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.”
3. Ez 43:2 – And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.

Rev 14:3

1. No one could learn that song except the 144,000
 - 1 Cor 2:14 – The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
2. Who had been redeemed – literally, “were bought”
 - a. Rev 5:9 – And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation
 - b. 1 Cor 6:19-20 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
3. From the earth (Rev 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8)

Rev 14:4

1. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins



- a. 1 Sam 21:4-5 – And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” 5 And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?”
 - b. 2 Cor 11:2 – For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
 - c. Contrast with Rev 14:8.
2. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes
 - a. Matt 10:38 – And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
 - b. John 10:1-4 – Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
 - c. 1 Pet 2:21 – For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.
3. These have been redeemed (see 14:3) from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb
 - a. Rom 8:23 – And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 - b. James 1:18 – Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
 - c. Jer 2:3 – Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the Lord.

Rev 14:5

1. In their mouth no lie was found
 - a. Is 53:9 – And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
 - b. 1 Pet 2:22 – He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.
 - c. Zeph 3:12-13 – But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, 13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.
2. They are blameless
 - a. Lev 1:3a – If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish.
 - b. Eph 5:25-27 – Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Note the characteristics of the 144,000 found in Rev 14:3b-5.

1. They are redeemed.
2. They are pure.



3. They are followers of the Lamb.
4. They are firstfruits.
5. They are truthful.
6. They are blameless.

The First Angel

Rev 14:6

1. Eternal gospel
 - a. Is 40:8 – The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
 - b. 1 Pet 1:22-25 – Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.
2. To every nation and tribe and language and people (Rev 5:9; 7:9, 10:11; 11:9; 13:7; 17:15)

Rev 14:7

1. The hour of his judgment has come (Rev 6:12-17)

Heb 10:26-27 – For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.
2. Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water
 - a. Rev 4:11 – Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.
 - b. Rev 10:6 – and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay
 - c. Acts 14:15 – Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.
 - d. These are the same earthly spheres affected by the judgments of the first four trumpets (Rev 8:7-12) and the first four bowls (Rev 16:2-6). Also, this angel’s message is linked to the first four trumpets not only by the same fourfold description of the created order but also by his flight path, which runs “in midheaven,” like that of the eagle that John saw after the fourth trumpet sounded (Rev 8:13). (Johnson, 2001)

The Second Angel

Rev 14:8

1. Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great
 - a. Is 21:9 – And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!” And he answered, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground.”



- b. Dan 4:30 – and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”
- c. Rev 18:1-2 – After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.”
- 2. She who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality
Jer 51:7 – Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.
- 3. Although her identity will be disclosed in that later vision, the well-known role of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon in the exile of ancient Judah would signal to first-century Christians that “Babylon” is code for the pagan power now oppressing them, Rome and the world system it embodies (cf. 1 Peter 5:13). (Johnson, 2001)

The Third Angel

Rev 14:9 – Receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand (Rev 13:16)

Rev 14:10

- 1. The wine of God's wrath
 - a. Matt 26:42 – Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”
 - b. John 18:11 – So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”
 - c. Jer 25:15 – Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. 16 They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.”
- 2. Fire and sulfur
 - a. Gen 19:24 – Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven.
 - b. Ps 11:6 – Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.
 - c. Is 30:33 – For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.
 - d. Is 34:9 – And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch.
 - e. Ez 38:22 – With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.
 - f. Rev 19:20 – And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.



- g. Rev 20:10 – and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- h. Rev 21:8 – But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

Rev 14:11 – And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever

Is 34:9-10 – And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. 10 Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever.

Rev 14:12 – Here is a call for the endurance of the saints (Rev 13:10)

A Heavenly Voice

Rev 14:13

- 1. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on
Phil 1:23 – I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
- 2. For their deeds **follow** them
 - a. Heb 6:10 – For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.
 - b. 1 Cor 9:25 – Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
 - c. 2 Tim 4:8 – Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Harvest of the Earth

Note the parallelism of verses 14-16 and 17-20. There are two sickles, two individuals wielding sickles, two angels coming out of the temple, two angels calling in a loud voice, two commands to use the sickle, two references to ripe grain and ripe grapes, and two harvests. Also notice that the word *sickle* occurs exactly seven times in verses 14-20 to illustrate the completeness of God's judgment. (Kistemaker, 2001)

Rev 14:14 – Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man (Rev 1:7, 13; Dan 7:13; Matt 24:30; 26:64)

Rev 14:15 – Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.

- 1. Jer 51:33 – For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time when it is trodden; yet a little while and the time of her harvest will come.



2. Matt 13:30 – Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”
3. Matt 13:40-42 – Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
4. Matt 3:12 – His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.
5. Mark 4:26-29 – And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Rev 14:18 – From the altar (Rev 6:9-10)

Rev 14:19, 20

1. Joel 3:13 – Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.
2. Is 63:1-6 – Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? 3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. 4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. 6 I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”
3. Lam 1:15 – The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah.
4. 2 Thes 1:5-8 – This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
5. John 5:28-29 – Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
6. Gen 49:11 – Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.
7. Rev 19:15 – From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Rev 14:20 – Outside the city



1. Mark 15:20 – And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.
2. Acts 7:58 – Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.
3. Heb 13:10-14 – We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.