

Revelation

Revelation Fourteen: Vision of Redemption and Judgment

Introduction

Chapters 14-16 embrace the closing moments of this age and the triumph of the age to come. It is a vision of redemption and a vision of judgment.

There are two descriptions of Messiah in chapter 14. In verses 1-5 the emphasis is on his appearance as the Lamb and the emphasis is redemption. In verses 14-20 He appears as the Son of Man and the emphasis is on the apocalyptic messianic figure and judgment.

A VISION OF REDEMPTION

14:1-5

- A. In this vision of redemption Christ appears as the Lamb standing upon Mount Zion (14:1).
 - 1. Mount Zion is here used spiritually. It is the heavenly mountain of salvation.
 - 2. Mount Zion is the place of the Tabernacle, the Temple, and the place of sacrifice.
 - 3. All of the redemptive history of Israel is realized here.
- B. The Lamb is standing on Mount Zion and with him are the 144,000.
 - 1. The Redeemer and the redeemed are standing together on the mountain of redemption.
 - 2. Since the 144,000 are standing on Mount Zion it shows that they emerged victoriously from the Great Tribulation.
- C. They are sealed with the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father.
 - 1. It is a seal of identity.
 - 2. That seal places all the resources of God's riches at their disposal.
- D. Revelation 14 answers two important questions.
 - 1. First, what was the fate of the 144,000 mentioned in chapter 7?
 - 2. What happens to the beast and his followers?
- E. These saints are singing a new song.
 - 1. John describes hearing this song (12:2-3).
 - 2. But he also heard the melody of many harpists.

3. Their praise takes them right to the presence of God and before His throne.
- F. Those who sing this new song have four spiritual distinctions.
1. They are pure!
 2. They follow the Lamb!
 3. They are first fruits to God and to the Lamb!
 4. They have not lied.

THREE ANGELIC MESSAGE

14:6-11

- A. An Angel Preaches the Gospel (14:6-7).
1. The only place in the New Testament where we see angels preaching.
 2. The astounding state of affairs could only be an indication of the severity of the circumstances.
 3. One of God's faithful practices in all generations has been to send adequate warning prior to judgment.
 4. This angel will tell the world to fear God and give Him glory.
- B. An Angel Announces Babylon's Fall (14:8).
1. Babylon is used in Revelation as a city corrupt in religion and morals.
 2. For now, it is enough to see it representing mankind in organized rebellion against God.
 3. This chapter is proclaiming the safety of the 144,000 and the final doom of all that pertains to iniquity and Antichrist.
- C. An Angel Warns of Coming Judgment (14:9-11).
1. He warns against false worship.
 2. He warns against the consequences of receiving the mark of the beast.
 3. This passage teaches that suffering of hell is real torment.

THE BLESSEDNESS OF SAINTS

14:12-13

- A. This announces a contrast between the "*rest*" of the saints and continual torment of the wicked.

1. One of the consistent chords of scripture is the concept that present-day sufferings are inconsequential in view of the eternal blessings that await us.
 2. 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.
- B. Their works follow them.

A VISION OF JUDGMENT

14:14-20

- A. The harvest of the earth.
1. The fourth and fifth angels of this chapter introduce these events following the return of Christ to destroy Antichrist.
 2. This is a prophetic fore glimpse.
- B. Joel, Isaiah, and Christ all spoke of a coming harvest of divine wrath.
1. Joel 3:12-13; Isaiah 63:1-6; Matthew 13:30, 39-42.
 2. The theme here is the final outpouring of the Lamb's fury.
- C. We see the appearance of a cloud and the Son of Man sitting on it.
1. The cloud is consistently associated with the divine presence and the second coming of Christ.
 2. He ascended on a cloud, and this is pattern for His return (Acts 1:9-11).
 3. Jesus described this event in Matthew 24:30.
- D. The One sitting on the white cloud, ***"like unto the Son of Man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle"*** can be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ appearing in judgment.
1. The timing is important, and we find it is when ***"the time is come for you to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe."***
 2. The idea of verse 15 is that the harvest is over-ripe.
 3. This is a commentary on the patience of God in relation to the sinfulness of man.
 4. God never rushes into judgment.

Conclusion

- A. Revelation 14 is the perfect answer to Revelation 13.

- B. The prediction that Christ will bring judgment comes only after three angelic warnings.
- C. We can only conclude that those who are harvested and pressed into the winepress of the wrath of God are the incorrigibles.