

Revelation 14

Introduction :

“The two monsters of chapter 13 offered a vicious and bleak picture to John’s first readers. Satan had the upper hand. His two greatest triumphs—Antichrist and False Prophet—have enlisted the worship of the whole world. Many believers have entered the lists of martyrs. The only advice the chapter offered to Christians was: “Be patient.” When will God and his forces ever prevail?

The first scene of chapter 14 answers the question by pulling back the curtain again. John beholds the full contingent of God’s people in heaven in a fully glorified state. The last time that John had seen the Lamb was in Revelation 7:9, sitting on heaven’s throne, worshiped by a great multitude who “have come out of great tribulation” (7:14). That preview had been part of the interlude between the breaking of the sixth and seventh seals. It balanced the scene in which 144,000 were sealed.

Now he sees the same Lamb again. The Lamb is in the same place, heaven, but for the only time in Revelation designated Mount Zion. John referred to the Lamb on the immovable mountain in a deliberate contrast to the dragon last seen standing on shifting sand (13:1, where “shore of the sea” is literally “sand of the sea”). Mount Zion, however, was a standard first-century Christian name for heaven. Hebrews 12:22 expresses the same language: “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. you have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.”

Easley, Kendell H. Revelation. Vol. 12. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998. Print. Holman New Testament Commentary.

There are three distinct sections to Revelation 14

The first section deals with the 144,000 and the lamb. 14:1-5

The second section deals with the messages of the three angels. 14:6-13

The third section deals with the harvesting of the earth. 14:14-20

- I. The first section deals with the 144,000 and the lamb. 14:1-5
 - A. The 144,000 are triumphant.
 1. The 144,000 are with the Lord.

Revelation 14:1 (ESV) 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

2. They are triumphant because they have been sealed by God.

Revelation 14:1 (ESV) 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.

3. Their triumph is declared through song.

Revelation 14:2 (ESV) 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, Revelation 14:3 (ESV) 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.

Revelation 15:3 (ESV) And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

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Deuteronomy 31:30 (ESV) Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

The words are recorded in Deut. 32

4. They have a great spiritual insight.

Revelation 14:3 (ESV) 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.

5. Their triumph is due to their being redeemed.,

Revelation 14:3 (ESV) 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.

- B. Next the nature of the triumph of the 144,000 is described.

1. They have remained faithful to Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:4 (ESV) 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,

- a. It appears that their being virgins should be taken metaphorically. Their virginity is seen in their faithfulness to Christ and not committing adultery with Babylon.

- (1) In the context there are those who have committed fornication with Babylon.

Revelation 14:8 (ESV) 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."

Revelation 14:8 (KJV 1900) And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

- (2) Babylon is personified as a woman.

Revelation 14:8 (ESV) 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."

- (3) Babylon is personified as the great prostitute.

Revelation 17:1 (ESV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,

- (4) To engage in the corrupted worship of this city is seen to be fornication.

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

2. They have been forgiven of their sins.

Revelation 14:4 (ESV) 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,

3. They have been faithful to God's word.

Revelation 14:5 (ESV) and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

- II. The second section deals with the messages of the three angels.14:6-13

A. The first angel.

1. The first angel proclaims the gospel.

Revelation 14:6 (ESV) 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.

2. This gospel is proclaimed to all people.

Revelation 14:6 (ESV) 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.

3. The gospel is a call to flee judgment.

Revelation 14:7 (ESV) 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."

4. The gospel is a call to worship the true God.

Revelation 14:7 (ESV) 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."

B. The second angel pronounces judgment on the city of Babylon.

Revelation 14:8 (ESV) 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."

C. The third angel puts forth a warning that judgment will come to those who receive the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:9 (ESV) 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,

1. The judgment will be an experiencing of God's wrath.

Revelation 14:10 (ESV) 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.

2. The continuing judgment will be under the oversight of God and His creatures.

Revelation 14:10 (ESV) 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.

Note that Hell is under God's dominion.

3. The torment for the lost is never ending and never ceasing.
 - a. The torment is never ending.

Revelation 14:11 (ESV) 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."

- b. The torment is never ceasing - there is no respite from the torment. There are not good days and bad days.

Revelation 14:11 (ESV) 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."

- c. The lost are those who worship the beast and the idol of it.

Revelation 14:11 (ESV) 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."

- D. There is blessing to having not worshiped the beast.

1. There is a blessedness to enduring persecution.

Revelation 14:12 (ESV) Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

2. Though they have died for their faith they have not died in vain.

Revelation 14:13 (ESV) 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!"

- a. Unlike the lost who have no rest - the people of God have a rest.

Revelation 14:13 (ESV) 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!"

- b. Their faithful acts will be "remembered."

Revelation 14:13 (ESV) 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!"

III. The third section deals with the harvesting of the earth. 14:14-20

- A. The harvesting will be performed at the oversight of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:14 (ESV) 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.

- B. This reaping is in accordance with the will of God the Father.

Revelation 14:15 (ESV) 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.”

- C. The reaping is a gathering of the lost from the earth.

Revelation 14:16 (ESV) So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

- D. The reaping comes at the appointed time.

Revelation 14:15 (ESV) 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."

Revelation 14:15 (ESV) 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."

Revelation 14:17 (ESV) Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

Revelation 14:18 (ESV) 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.”

- E. The lost will be great in number.

Revelation 14:19 (ESV) 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.

Revelation 14:20 (ESV) 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.

IV. Conclusion: