

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 14

### Introductory Notes

- We finish the parenthetical section that began in Chapter 13.
- Pictured here are the final judgments and ultimate victory of Christ.
- Here are many noteworthy contrasts between the work of God and the work of Satan.

### Outline

- The Lamb and the 144,000 - vs. 1-5
- The Six Angels - vs. 6-20

### Notes

- vs. 1 – Despite the evil of the preceding chapters, here is God’s victorious stand.
  - Contrast: Beasts vs. the Lamb (Christ)
  - Contrast: the world vs. Mount Sion (Jerusalem/Israel),
  - Contrast: the nations vs. the 144,000 (Jewish believers preserved through Tribulation, see Revelation 7)
  - Contrast: the mark of the Beast (13:16-18) vs. the Seal of God
- vs. 2 – This is God speaking, though John does not record what He said.
  - Contrast: voices of the unholy trinity (13:5-6,11) vs. the voice of God
  - Contrast: cacophony of the nations (Psalms 2:1) vs. the worship of Heaven
- vs. 3 - new song – every occurrence of “new song” in Scripture is praise to God for His deliverance and redemption - Psalm 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1; Isaiah 42:10; Revelation 5:9, 14:3.
  - In a sense, this is a celebration of a victory to come.
  - Contrast: slavery to the Beast vs. freedom in Christ.
  - Contrast: fleshly praise of Beast vs. spiritual praise of God
- vs. 4-5 - describes the virtue of the 144,000 using Old Testament concepts of ritual purity
  - Contrast: corruption of Beast worshipers vs. purity of Christ worshipers
  - Contrast: guilt of the world vs. righteousness of the redeemed
- vs. 6-7 - **First Angel** - proclaims the “good news”, heralding the coming Kingdom.
- vs. 8 - **Second Angel** - proclaims the fall of Babylon, symbolizing the false religious system. We will return to this topic in Chapter 17.
- vs. 9-12 - **Third Angel** - proclaims the doom of the Beast’s followers, which are by implication those that reject Christ.

- vs. 10 - poured out without mixture - it was common in ancient times to dilute wine with water. In this context it shows the wrath of God is poured out without moderation or dilution, i.e., at full strength.
- vs. 12 - "the patience of the saints" - the ultimate victory of Christ and His followers
- vs. 13 – Divine assurance of eternal life. This is meant for the believers that will become martyrs in the Tribulation.
  - This is the second beatitude in Revelation - 1:3; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14
  - God communicates directly with John here, one of eight times in Revelation - 10:4, 8; 11:12; 14:2; 18:4; 21:3. "The implication is that this is unusually important and a direct divine pronouncement." (Walvoord)
  - Note also that the Holy Spirit speaks here.
  - Contrast: the fate of the wicked vs. the fate of the righteous
- vs. 14 – Christ is active in the judgments.
  - Note the glory (cloud), authority (crown), and judgment (sharp sickle, harvest).
- vs. 15 - **Fourth Angel** - Proclaims the time of Christ's "reaping"
  - Note – the fact that these final three angels are not numbered suggests they are a separate group of three from the first and do not follow chronologically.
- vs. 16 – There are two "harvests", here and in vs. 19. This first harvest appears to the gathering of the saints – see Matthew 13:30, 36-43
- vs. 17 - **Fifth Angel** - has a sickle and will reap in vs. 19.
- vs. 18 - **Sixth Angel** - Commands the Fifth Angel to reap.
- vs. 19 – This second reaping is the judgment upon the wicked, culminating in Armageddon.
- vs. 20 – The unfathomable carnage of Armageddon – Isaiah 63:3, Revelation 19:17-21
- vs. 20 - 1,600 furlongs - approximately 200 miles. Present day Israel is roughly 263 miles long and 71 miles wide.