

**Christ, the Lamb of God, sits
in Judgment**

Revelation 14

Introduction

- The Seventh Trumpet has sounded and we are reading about various activities that occur during the Seventh Trumpet.
- In chapter 13 we learned about the Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- In this chapter we learn that Christ, the Lamb of God, sits in judgment on the ungodly rebels who have joined the forces of Antichrist.

The Lamb and the 144,000 saved Jews (14:1-5)

Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

- This special group of Jewish men was sealed by God before the seventh seal was opened (Rev. 7), and now they are seen on Mount Zion with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Contrast this picture to the one described in Revelation 13 which describes the followers of “the beast” who have a mark on their foreheads (Rev. 13:16).

The Lamb and the 144,000 saved Jews (14:1-5)

² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

- The 144,000 are *standing* with Christ on the heavenly Mount Zion. They are singing before the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:22-24 speaks of the heavenly Mount Zion).

The Lamb and the 144,000 saved Jews (14:1-5)

Hebrews 12:22-24: But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of Abel*.

- Because of the special experiences the 144,000 had during the Tribulation, they have a new song to sing that others cannot share.

The Lamb and the 144,000 saved Jews (14:1-5)

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- The phrase “defiled with women” does not imply that sex within marriage is evil, because it is not (Heb. 13:4). It merely indicates that these 144,000 Jewish men were unmarried.

The Lamb and the 144,000 saved Jews (14:1-5)

- While most of the world bowed down to the image of “the beast,” the 144,000 were faithful to the true God.
- While others lied to get what they needed, the 144,000 were without guile and blemish.

An angelic appeal for sinners to repent (14:6-7)

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

- The angel is preaching the good news concerning everlasting life and entrance into the kingdom of God (cf. Matt. 24:14; 1 Cor. 15:1–10).
- He is urging the people of the world to change their allegiance from the beast to the Lamb.

An angelic announcement that “Babylon” is fallen (14:8)

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

- Babylon refers to the entire worldwide political, economic, and religious kingdom of Antichrist. In Revelation 16:17-19 and in chapter 18 we will learn more details about the fall of “Babylon.”
- Rev. 14:8 pictures Babylon causing the world to become intoxicated with her pleasures and includes rebellion, hatred, and idolatry toward God by participating in Antichrist’s false system.

An angelic warning against worshiping Antichrist and against receiving his mark. (14:9-12)

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

¹⁰ "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹ "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

An angelic warning against worshiping Antichrist and against receiving his mark. (14:9-12)

- God is a just God. His punishments are always equal to the sin committed. The fact that people consciously choose to rebel against a holy God, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son as an offering for sin, and who offers sinners forgiveness if they will repent, shows how terrible and awful is the sin of persistent disobedience.
- These people have repeatedly ignored God's warnings and opportunities to repent. If people persist in their sins even after God sends judgment and warnings, they have only themselves to blame.

An angelic warning against worshiping Antichrist and against receiving his mark. (14:9-12)

- The punishment of the damned is not a temporary measure.
- The smoke of their torment rises forever and ever.
- Without hope of acquittal, they pay the eternal price of having chosen evil over righteousness.

An angelic warning against worshiping Antichrist and against receiving his mark. (14:9-12)

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: `Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "

"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

- The connection with v. 12 is clear: faithfulness to Christ may issue in martyrdom, but the faithful dead are blessed in that they have entered victoriously into their rest.

An angelic warning against worshiping Antichrist and against receiving his mark. (14:9-12)

- Notice the contrast between the afterlife of the unrepentant sinners and those who turn from their sins and put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- It will be better to endure persecution patiently during the Tribulation Period for faith in Jesus Christ, than to deny Christ and suffer throughout eternity.

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

- Two visions of judgment bring the chapter to its close. Verses 14–16 picture the advent of divine judgment in the familiar figure of a **grain harvest**. Verses 17–20 emphasize the violent nature of the wrath of God as the treading of a winepress into which the **grape** clusters of the earth have been **harvested** and cast.
- The grain harvest symbolizes God's judgment which will be described in greater detail as the seven bowl judgments (Rev. ch. 16)

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

- There is uncertainty about the identity of the “One like the Son of Man,” – some say it is Jesus, other says it is an angel.
- The picture is the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ being mowed down like a harvester cutting grain.

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

- The reaping of the harvest of the “grapes” most likely corresponds to the final battle of the Tribulation Period known as the Battle of Armageddon.
- A furlong is 670 feet. 1,600 furlongs is approximately 184 miles. This figure corresponds roughly to the length of Israel.

A picture of the final judgment in terms of the reaping of a harvest (14:14-20)

- Perhaps the best way to interpret this is that the blood shed during this reaping is found throughout the entire land of Israel and some blood is spattered even as high as horses' bridles.

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