

Revelation 14: Introduction

- The Tribulation, the final seven years before the Second Coming of Christ, will be a time of unprecedented trouble upon the earth.
- In God’s deepest plans and purposes we can see three bottom-line reasons why He would extend this period of judgment over this seven-year timespan.
- God’s three identifiable goals for this period are as follows:
 1. To Shake Up the World
 - God intends to rock and shock this Christ-rejecting planet to its very foundations before the Lord returns.
 - Every institution and organization, both secular and religious, will stand powerless before the outpouring of the wrath of God.
 2. To Wake Up the Nation
 - The nation of Israel, God’s chosen people, will finally come back to their senses, their Scriptures and their Savior.
 - In the absence of the Church, the Jews will become the primary ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ at this time.
 3. To Make Up the Millennium
 - In the midst of enormous slaughter and judgment, the greatest revival the world has ever seen will bring vast numbers of both Jews and Gentiles into the Kingdom.
 - Only then will Christ return to the earth with His saints to begin His 1000-year reign.
 - Those believers who survive to the end will be allowed to enter the Millennium.
 - While we reign with Christ in immortal, transformed bodies, these survivors, who have made Christ their Savior, will repopulate the fully devastated planet.
 - The result will be 1000 years of peace and prosperity such as this world has never experienced before.
 - Christ will reign as King and we His bride will reign with Him.
 - Israel will be His special people and all the nations of the earth will worship Him.
- Revelation 14: Introduction
- So once again, God’s three identifiable goals for the Tribulation period are as follows:
 1. To Shake Up the World
 2. To Wake Up the Nation
 3. To Make up the Millennium
- Revelation 14 finds us still at the 3 ½ year mid-point of the Tribulation.
- The Seal and Trumpet Judgments have taken place – reducing earth’s population by at least one half.

- The Beast or Antichrist has come to the forefront of the world scene through lies and intrigue – and a special seven-year treaty which includes Israel.
- Two sackcloth-wearing witnesses, who proclaimed God’s word in Jerusalem have been killed, resurrected, and have ascended into heaven as the whole world watched in wonder.
- Antichrist has broken his covenant with the Jews and is now demanding worship – total worship – over any and every god or goddess that has ever been honored anywhere.
- His sidekick, the False Prophet, is pointing everyone to this Man of Sin.
- Through lying signs and wonders the False Prophet is deceiving the world.
- He has caused men to make an image of Antichrist and then given breath to the idol.
- This deceiver is forcing people to worship both the Beast and his image.
- He is also placing controls upon the world’s economy, saying that no one may buy or sell anywhere on earth without “the Mark of the Beast” on the right hand or forehead.
- At this point in the story John gives us a glimpse – a sneak preview – of what lies ahead.
- We’ll see how everyone will ultimately have to choose sides. Everyone.

Revelation 14 Outline

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| III. | Two Views of the Harvest | 14:14-20 |

The Lamb and His Firstfruits 14:1-5

- When Christ returns He will stand on Mount Zion and celebrate with this select group of the sons of Israel.
- These 144,000, made up of 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes, were sealed toward the beginning of the Tribulation and will survive intact to the end.
- We also learn at least more two details about them:
 - While surrounded by sexual immorality they kept their bodies pure. (v.4)
 - In a world engulfed in deception, their verbal witness remained faithful and true. (v.5)
- As a result they will learn a song all their own and follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Take Away Point:

- The only way we can be found without fault before the throne of God (v.5), is to be redeemed from the earth (v.3) by Christ’s blood.
- Please don’t try to justify yourself before God.
- You can only be found righteous in His sight if you accept Christ’s perfect righteousness as your own.

Three Angelic Announcements 14:6-13

- A. The Everlasting Gospel 14:6-7
- God is presently using us as His messengers to communicate the Gospel.
 - We should not take this responsibility lightly.
 - In that day He will also use angels. The gospel will be preached in all the world before the end.
 - See Mat 24:14.

B. The Fall of Babylon 14:8

- The event anticipated here occurs in Revelation 16:18-19.
- It was foretold as early as Isaiah 21:9.
- We will see it in greater detail a bit later in Revelation 17-18.

C. The Wrath of God 14:9-13

- This is an announcement of the judgments we will read about in the following chapters, Revelation 15-19.
- It also reveals the severity of the torment that awaits those who reject God's mercy.

- 14:10 full strength = undiluted, unmixed.
- No grace or mercy to cut the strength of God's wrath. This age of grace will be over.

- 14:11 Abraham saw the smoke rising up after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - See Genesis 19:27-29.
- forever and ever Expressions like this are the strongest way the Greek language has to say "eternally", or "forevermore".
- 14:11 forever and ever 12x in Revelation:
 - The eternity of God (4:9,10; 7:12; 10:6; 15:7)
 - And of Christ (1:18)
 - God's eternal reign (11:15)
 - The eternal glory of the Lamb (5:13)
 - The eternal reign of believers (22:5)
 - The eternal doom of the devil (20:10)
 - The eternal torment of the lost (here and 19:3)

- 14:11 they have no rest day or night
- Make no mistake.
- The torment of those condemned will be both continuous and forever.
- The phrase we've sometimes used to describe it is "eternal, conscious torment."
- This is every bit as serious as it sounds.
- And it will absolutely just.

- 14:12 Still, many will come to sincere faith in Christ during this time, but great patience and perseverance will be needed.
 - Think back to 7:9-14.

- 14:13 they may rest from their labors
- A beautiful picture of the blessed state of the redeemed.
- This week, I can't help but think of Pastor Chuck Smith who entered his rest this past Thursday.

Take Away Point:

- The wrath of God is real.
- We should do all that we can to avoid it.
- We should be willing to pay any price.
- Be sure that you are among those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (v.12)
- You then only look forward to your rest. (v.13)

Two Views of the Harvest 14:14-20

- By the time Christ returns, every last person will have made a decision – for Christ or Antichrist.
- Everyone will have to choose sides.
- Here is how John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, explained these two views of the harvest.
 - *“In the following verses, under the emblem of an harvest and a vintage, are signified two general visitations; first, many good men are taken from the earth by the harvest; then many sinners during the vintage. The latter is altogether a penal visitation; the former seems to be altogether gracious.” - - Wesley’s Notes*
- 14:14-16 Many see this first picture as the ingathering of the people of God.
- The Son of Man here seems to be Jesus. That was His favorite title for Himself.
 - The imagery goes back to Daniel 7:13-14.
- But we also see this image of end times harvest elsewhere, as in Christ’s parable.
 - See Matthew 13:24-30
- 14:17-20 This latter view is clearly a picture of judgment.
- Just prior to Christ’s glorious appearing, the armies of the world will gather at the place called Armageddon. (16:16)
- From there they will spread out over the Promised Land in what may be a vain attempt to overtake Israel.
- As Christ returns to His own nation He will find these armies arrayed against Him.
- The trampling of the winepress expresses Christ’s destruction of the world’s armies.
- Read Revelation 19:19-21 to help further explain this scene.
- The massive size of the forces gathered to do battle against the Lord is made clear by 14:20.
- 14:20 up to the horses’ bridles
- Blood from the trampling of the bodies is splashing up to this height and for a distance of nearly 200 miles – the entire length of the land of Israel.
- The carnage is caused by the sword, the word of God, that proceeds from the mouth of Christ. (19:21)

Take Away Point:

- There are really only two options.
- We’re each choosing sides.
- Eternity hangs in the balance.
- We are saved or we are lost.
- Will we be thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God?
- Or will we be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Revelation 14 Take Away Points

1. Our redemption is only by Christ’s blood.
 - By it we can be found without fault before the throne of God.
2. The wrath of God is real. We should do all that we can to avoid it.
 - Yet all it takes is turning your life over to Christ.
3. There are really only two options.
 - We’re choosing sides. We can be trampled in the winepress or washed in His precious blood.