

A Song, Angelic Messages, and a Bloody Harvest

Study 14. Revelation 14

By James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

A. The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion; the Song. 14:1-5

1. John looked. Who was standing on Mount Zion? ¹ 14:1 _____
2. Who was with Him? _____ ²
3. Whose names were written on their foreheads? _____
_____. (Note the similarities between 14:1 and 7:2-8.)
4. John heard a voice/sound (the Grk. word is *phone*) from heaven. What did it sound like? 14:2
 - a. Like _____
 - b. Like _____
 - c. And like _____ ³
5. What did they ⁴ sing? 14:3 _____

¹ 14:1 - Mount Zion: Many conservative expositors take chapter 14 to be proleptic, meaning "looking forward" to Christ's Millennial reign upon earth (as in chapter 20). If that is true, chapter 14 is entirely out of sequence. It makes more sense to leave chapter 14 in the sequence in which John placed it, and to see Mount Zion as referring to heavenly Mount Zion. So the reference to Mount Zion takes place during the Tribulation, not afterwards. Consequently it must be the heavenly Mount Zion, not the earthly one.

² 14:1 - 144,000. While it is true that the 144,000 Jewish believers were sealed, and thus spared from any harm during their ministry on earth (in Rev. 7:1-8), this passage apparently reveals that they will be spared only until they have completed that ministry. In Revelation 14, they appear to be in heaven. There is no good reason to suggest that this group of 144,000 is different from those described in Revelation 7.

³ 14:2 - The 3rd comparison in the Greek text reads, "like the sound of harpists harping on their harps."

⁴ 14:3 - "And they sang": In the context, the only ones named who could be singing the new song are the 144,000. Since they sing it before the throne of God and the four living creatures and the elders, they must be in heaven. This substantiates the notion that heavenly Mount Zion is in view here, not earthly Mount Zion.

6. Before whom did they sing? 14:3
 - a. Before _____
 - b. Before _____
 - c. And before _____
7. Who were the only ones who could learn the song? 14:3 _____⁵
8. From what place had the 144,000 been purchased? 14:3 _____⁶
9. The description of the 144,000. 14:4-5
 - a. What can be said about their gender? 14:4 _____
 - b. What can be said about their moral purity? _____
 - c. What can be said about their purpose? _____

 - d. What can be said about their integrity? 14:5 _____

B. Three Angelic Messages and Two Responses. 14:6-13

1. An Angel flying in midheaven. 14:6-7
 - a. What did John see flying in midheaven? 14:6a _____
 - b. What was he about to proclaim to those dwelling upon the earth? 14:6b

⁵ 14:3 - learn the song: If the only ones who can learn the song are the 144,000, they are the only ones singing it. Since they are said to sing this song before the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders, they must necessarily be in heaven, and Mount Zion must be heavenly Mount Zion.

⁶ 14:3 - purchased from the earth: This description helps confirm the interpretation that the 144,000 are now in heaven, having been purchased (perfect tense) from the earth.

- c. To whom would he proclaim it? 14:6c To every
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - d. How did he command the earth-dwellers to react toward God? 14:7a
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - e. Why? _____ 14:7b
 - f. What else did the angel command the earth dwellers to do towards God? 14:7c _____
 - g. Why? Because He is the creator of... 14:7d
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
2. A Second Angel following the first 14:8
- a. What did this angel announce? _____

 - b. Why has God decreed this downfall? Because _____
_____ ⁷

⁷ 14:8 - Babylon the great: We will discuss the meaning of Babylon the Great when we study Revelation 17. For now, let us say that, from its beginning, Babylon has been the focus of unified rebellion against God (Gen. 11:1-9).

3. A Third Angel following the second. 14:9-12
 - a. In a loud voice this angel warned anyone of the terrible consequences of doing two things. What are they? 14:9
 - 1) Worshipping _____
 - 2) Receiving _____
 - b. What will the one does these things be forced to drink? 14:10a _____
 - c. With what will he be tormented? 14:10b _____
 - d. Who will view their torment? 14:10c
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - e. How long will their torment last? 14:11a _____
 - f. What will they not have, day or night? 14:11b _____
 - g. Those upon whom these dire catastrophes will fall are once again described as 14:11c
 - 1) Those who worship _____
 - 2) Whoever receives _____
 - h. What will be required of the saints ⁸ who keep the commandments of God and retain their faith in Jesus? 14:12 _____

⁸ 14:12 - saints: This term is not meant to describe some special class of Christians who have been venerated by the Church. Rather, it describes ordinary, but obedient believers in Jesus who are alive on earth during the terrible Tribulation period. It is appropriate to call them "Tribulation saints." Incredible pressure will be placed on all people to cooperate with the Satanically-inspired, global regime of the Beast (Antichrist) (Rev. 13:1-18). A great many people will come to their senses during the Tribulation and will instead place their trust in Jesus as their Messiah (King). The ministry of the 144,000 (Rev. 7:4-8), the two witnesses (Rev. 11:1-6), and the angels mentioned in this chapter (14:6-11) will result in the salvation of millions. But, as the next verse (14:13) suggests, most who place their faith in Christ during the Tribulation will pay for their loyalty to Jesus, and their disloyalty to the Antichrist's regime, with their lives (see also Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-17).

4. The First Response. What did a voice from heaven say? 14:13a _____

5. The Second Response. What did the Holy Spirit say? 14:13b
 - a. What benefit will the believing martyrs enjoy? _____

 - b. What will happen to the labors of the martyrs? _____

C. The Bloody Harvest of the Grapes of Wrath upon Earth. 14:14-20

1. The Harvest by the Son of Man. 14:14-16
 - a. What is the first thing John saw? 14:14a _____
 - b. Who was sitting on it? 14:14b _____⁹
 - c. What was on his head? 14:14c _____
 - d. What did he hold in his hand? 14:14d _____
 - e. Another angel (a fourth angel) emerged from what place up in heaven? 14:15a _____
 - f. What command did he relay to the one sitting on the cloud? 14:15b

 - g. Why had the hour come to reap? 14:15c _____

 - h. What did the one on the cloud do? 14:16a _____

 - i. What happened to the earth? 14:16b _____

⁹ 14:14 - one like a son of man: This is a Messianic term (Dan. 7:13; Matt. 13:41; 16:27-28; 19:28; 24:27, 30; 25:31; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; 22:69; John 1:51; 5:27; Acts 7:56; Rev. 1:13). The person participating in judgment upon the earth is none other than Jesus Christ. The crown represents His rulership, and the sickle, His judgment.

2. The Bloody Harvest of Another Angel. 14:17-20
 - a. Another angel (a fifth) emerged from what place? 14:17a _____

 - b. What was he carrying? 14:17b _____
 - c. Yet another angel (a sixth) emerged from the altar in heaven. Over what did he hold authority? 14:18a _____
 - d. What did he loudly command the angel with the sharp sickle to do? 14:18b _____

 - e. What did the angel do with his sickle? 14:19a _____

 - f. Into what did he throw the clusters of grapes? 14:19b _____

 - g. Where was the wine press trodden? 14:20a _____
_____ ¹⁰
 - h. What came out of the wine press? 14:20b _____ ¹¹
 - i. How high did the blood flow (or perhaps spatter)? 14:20c _____

 - j. What was the distance of the carnage? 14:20d _____ ¹²

¹⁰ 14:20 - outside the city: The city is unnamed, but it is most likely Jerusalem. The whole city of Babylon is to be destroyed (Rev. 18), but this judgment here occurs *outside* the city. So Jerusalem is a better choice than Babylon. Though there will be great bloodshed and loss of life inside Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-2), God's ultimate objective is to save the city, not destroy it. The great loss of life depicted in Rev. 14:20 speaks primarily of Gentile loss of life, not Jewish. (See Zechariah 12 and 14.)

¹¹ 14:20 - blood: The fact that blood, not grape juice, flows from the wine press indicates that the blood is to be taken literally. The metaphor of the sickles, the grapes, and the wine press coalesces into the reality of real bloodshed.

¹² 14:20 - 200 miles. The Greek text reads 1600 stadia, which is about 200 miles. This encompasses the entire length of Israel, from north to south. If this text is not to be taken literally, what is the point of such a specific number, such as 1600? The text need not be interpreted that blood is 4.5 feet deep the whole length of Israel. What it means is that blood-shed is so prevalent that, in places throughout the whole length of the country blood is spattered as high as the horses' bridles.

Some might object that horses will not be used during that great battle. But those who object fail to take into account the virulent antipathy of many environmentalists in today's governments against

3. Parallel Passages

- a. What imagery is drawn from Joel 3:9-16? _____

- b. How does Isaiah 63:1-6 relate to Revelation 14:14-20? _____
_____ ¹³
- c. How does Ezekiel 39:17-20 relate to Revelation 14:14-20 and 19:17-21? _____
_____ ¹⁴
- d. Who will gather together against Jerusalem? Zechariah 12:1-4 _____

- e. Who will oppose these nations? Zech. 14:1-4 _____

- f. How will the enemy combatants who survive the final battle be put to death? Zech. 14:12-15 _____

D. Pause for Reflection

1. This chapter speaks of almost certain death during the Tribulation for any followers of Christ. Are you prepared, right now, to become a martyr for Jesus if (and when) our government turns completely against Christians?
2. What evidence do you see in this chapter of God's diligent efforts to warn people on the earth of coming judgment?

petroleum products. Furthermore, events described in Revelation 18 seem to indicate a reduction in the supply of petroleum products to the point that mariners and kings are unable to transport their cargoes. No humans today know what conditions will exist and what the oil infrastructure will look like in that horrible battle at the close of the Tribulation. It is wisest to take the Scriptures as literally as possible.

¹³ Isaiah 63:1-6. This gruesome, but accurate description of Jesus destroying the enemies of Israel upon His return to earth helps support the grim reality of incredible bloodshed throughout the length of the Holy Land.

¹⁴ Ezekiel 39:11-20; Revelation 19:17-21. The presence of birds scavenging the bodies of fallen soldiers and horses, as well as the extraordinary amount of time (seven months) it takes Israelis to bury the bodies of the fallen, speaks of catastrophic bloodshed.

3. How does God want to use you to warn people of coming judgment and point them to Jesus, the only means of escape?

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Published Online March, 2012 by WordExplain.com

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