

## REVELATION Chapter 14

*John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, October 2014*

*In chapter 13 we saw two forces of evil, the sea beast (the persecuting power of Rome) and the earth beast (the false religion of emperor worship). In this chapter, we see two forces of righteousness, the Lamb and the sickles of judgment.*

### I. THE LAMB & THE REDEEMED, 14:1-5

A. **THE LAMB:** the victorious Christ of chapter 5.

B. **MOUNT ZION:**

1. Its origin in history: 2 Samuel 5:6-10; 6:12-13; 1 Kings 8:1
2. Symbolic of Jerusalem: Psalm 2:5-6; 15:1; 48:1-2; 132:13-14
3. Use in prophecy: Zechariah 8:1-3; Daniel 2:34-35; Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4
4. "Jerusalem" symbolizing the church: Hebrews 12:18-29
5. God is still in Zion: Psalm 110:1-2

*Zion is used in the Bible as the location of God. In the New Testament it can refer to either the church or heaven (context determines). Compare Hebrews 12:22-23; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 3:14*

C. **THE 144,000:** symbolic number denoting all of the saved (see again 7:1-8).

1. The Father's name is in their foreheads, v. 1 (see Rev. 3:12; 7:2-4).
2. Their voice from heaven as of many waters, thunder, harp, v. 2
3. They sing a new song, v. 3 (the old song was that of tribulation; this one a praise to God – see 5:9-10; 7:10).
4. They are free from sexual impurity, v. 4 (see Rev. 2:14, 20; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-32)
5. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes, v. 4
6. They are redeemed ("purchased") from among men, v. 4 (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2 Peter 2:1; Rev. 5:9-10).
7. They are firstfruits unto God, v. 5 (cf. Romans 8:23; James 1:18).
8. In their mouth is no guile, v. 5 (cf. Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 1:22).
9. They stand before God's throne without fault, v. 5 (cf. Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:21-23).

### II. THE FOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS, 14:6-13

A. **FIRST ANGEL:** The Triumph of Righteous, vv. 6-7

1. The angel announces the wicked are judged!
  - a. This angel has the everlasting gospel to preach to all them dwelling on earth.
  - b. The message: fear God – give glory to God – worship God!

2. **REVELATION 15-16**

**B. SECOND ANGEL:** The Judgment of Wicked Babylon, v. 8

1. Babylon is fallen, that great city!
  - a. She made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
  - b. Who is Babylon? *ROME* (compare Revelation 17).
2. **REVELATION 17-18**

**C. THIRD ANGEL:** The Judgment of Emperor Worshipers, vv. 9-12

1. Emperor worshippers are judged: those who worship the beast, his image, or receive his mark (Revelation 13:15-18).
  - a. This judgment would come from God: unmixed (pure) and stemming from God's anger.
  - b. It is spoken of as already accomplished (compare Genesis 12:1-3).
  - c. God's longsuffering has come to an end.
  - d. This judgment is complete: fire, brimstone, torment, no rest, their leader would be bound.
2. The saints would have what was promised them, v. 12
  - a. Here is the patience ("steadfastness") of the saints.
  - b. This victory is for those who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus (compare 7:13-17).
3. **REVELATION 19-20**

**D. REWARD FOR THE SAINTS,** v. 14

1. The message: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord..."
  - a. The "dead" are described in 11:7-10.
  - b. They are "in the Lord" (Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 1:3) are faithful (2:10).
  - c. "Rest" indicates VICTORY! REWARD!
2. **REVELATION 21-22**

**III. TWO SICKLES OF JUDGMENT, 14:14-20**

**A. God uses one sickle for *HARVESTING*, vv. 14-16**

1. One like the Son of man comes upon a white cloud.
2. An angel comes out of the temple announcing the time for reaping has arrived.
3. Compare Matthew 3:12; 13:24-30, 34-43

**B. God uses one sickle for *JUDGMENT*, vv. 17-20**

1. Message: gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.
2. Cast it into the winepress of the wrath of God.
  - a. Fire: *symbol of destruction*.
  - b. "fully ripe": *iniquity is full* (cf. Genesis 15:16; 49:10-12; Isaiah 63:1ff; Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:12).
  - c. Winepress: "*grapes*" *being crushed*.
  - d. Without the city: that is, *outside the church* (non-Christians).
  - e. Blood: depth to horses bridle; 1600 furlongs (200 miles) long.

**Jesus is VICTOR! The enemy is destroyed! God rules and reigns!**