

Notes on Revelation 14

Intro: Chapter fourteen continues the description of the two opposing armies in this spiritual conflict. In this chapter Christ and his people are identified and the principles of salvation and judgment are announced as imminent.

The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt. Zion

The Lamb is certainly Christ (Cf. Rev. 5)

A voice from heaven

Like the sound of many waters (indicating the number of worshippers)

Like the sound of loud thunder (indicating volume)

Like the sound of harpists playing on their harps (indicating beautiful melody)

"They" sang a new song (In Scripture the new song is a new celebration of the saving acts of God) Cf.

The 144,000 is the spiritual Israel of God (Cf. Rev. 7), the "bondservants of God (7:1) who have been "purchased from the earth" (14:3)

Having the name of God and the Lamb on their foreheads. This is the counterpart to those who worship the beast. God's people are just as unmistakably his as are those who belong to the beast. The name indicates possession by God and Christ, for they have been "purchased from the earth".

Only they can learn the new song. Is it the song of the Lamb? (15:3)

These are the one who participate in the Lamb's deliverance? They are learning the song that that the delivered are now singing!

Not defiled with women but are chaste. This is a spiritual characteristic in view of their marriage to Christ. Being betrothed to Him and in anticipation of the marriage feast, they remain faithful to the Lord.

They follow the Lamb. They walk in his footsteps, living his life, submitting to His authority.

Purchased from among men. Firstfruits implies that even more will come.

They are not only honest, but bear witness to the truth of God.

Their lives are compatible with the truth they speak.

On Mt. Zion (This was the mountain that symbolized the presence of God, but more particularly the headquarters of His kingdom). Ps. 2:6; Ps. 110:2,6; Joel 2:32

Announcements of salvation and judgment (The day of the Lord has arrived)

The first angel--His message is "eternal good news" for it declares the permanent defeat of God's enemies. It is an exhortation to fear God and give him glory. God should be worshipped because his hour of judgment has come. It is a universal message ("to every nation, tribe, tongue and people"). The second angel--His message declares also the fall of the immoral city of Babylon.

The third angel--His message warns those who worship the beast of the consequences of their actions--they will drink the wine of God's wrath in full strength, tormented with fire and brimstone, the smoke of which goes up forever, no rest day and night. This is what will enable God's people to persevere their trials. In contrast, those who die in the Lord are blessed because they "rest" from their labors.

The fourth & fifth angels

He is one like a son of man. He is closely associated with Christ (1:13), perhaps his angel (Rev. 1:1).

He has golden crown (indicating valuable victory) and a sickle (the instrument of harvest). Cf. Jn. 4:35-18; Mt. 9:37

He comes in clouds and gathers together his elect (Cf. Mt. 24:29-31).

He reaps the earth. This seems to be a spiritual harvest of the righteous.

The sixth & seventh angels

He too possesses a sharp sickle. It is efficient for judgment. Joel 3:13; Is. 63:1-6; Jer. 51:33;

The angel who earlier threw fire to earth in judgment now calls for the harvesting of the vine of the earth (the wicked).

The winepress is trodden outside the city. The bloodshed is almost inconceivable, so many are destroyed (200 miles).

The Two opposing forces of Revelation:

One of the throne (Who was, is, is to come)	The Dragon (the Serpent)
Lamb (Who was slain)	The Sea Beast (Who was wounded and came to life)
Two witnesses (Who prophecy and perform true signs)	The Land Beast (who falsely prophesies and works pseudo-signs)
The woman (Who gives birth to the manchild and other offspring), later called the "new Jerusalem"	The harlot (Who rides the beast and commits immorality with the kings of earth), later called "Babylon"
The 144,000 (Who follow the Lamb and have his mark on their foreheads)	Those who dwell on earth (Those who follow the beast and have his mark on their hand/forehead)