

Revelation Chapter 14

Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible and are highlighted in blue and italics.

Verse 1

¹ Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Sometimes in scripture Mt. Zion refers to all of Judah. Sometimes it refers just to the city of Jerusalem. Sometimes it refers to more specifically to the temple mount in Jerusalem.

Those references are to earthly Mt. Zion. Earthly Mt. Zion is just a shadow, a reflection of the Heavenly Mt. Zion. The earthly Mt. Zion is just a shadow, a reflection of the heavenly Mt. Zion. By heavenly I don't mean figuratively or symbolically, I mean a literal, heavenly Mt. Zion.

The writer of Hebrews says these words:

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Paul in Galatian's 4:26 refers to the Jerusalem from the above. Jerusalem in Revelation 3:12 refers to the new Jerusalem which comes down from Heaven from my God.

John in Revelation 21 says: "I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." An Angel showed me the Holy City Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God." Then John gives a detailed description of the New Jerusalem in chapters 21 and 22.

Jesus:

"I go to prepare a place for you, and If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am there you may be also." (John 14: 2, 3)

This New Jerusalem is the place Jesus has gone away to prepare. It is the heavenly Mt. Zion in chapter 14:1.

These 144,000 have the seal of God on their foreheads, and thus are exempt from God's judgments inflicted on earth and on rebellious man, but it doesn't keep them from being killed at the hands of the anti-christ and rebellious man. In chapter 7, they're seen in earth, but by the time of chapter 14, they've been martyred and are in Heaven.

Verse 2

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

In chapter 5, 24 elders and 4 living ones each had a harp and these elders and living ones (Cherubim) sang a new song to the Lamb saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and break it's seals; for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9)

Verse 3

³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

Just as 24 elders and 4 Cherubim sang a new song to the Lamb, in view of His purchasing men, now the purchased men sing a new song before the throne the elders and cherubim who'd been doing the earlier singing in chapter 5. The song is not recorded here, only the 144,000 can learn it; it's not for everybody. The 144,000 had a special assignment and they carried it out faithfully even though it cost them their lives. They now have a special song just for them.

You and I are not among this 144,000, but we will have some special exclusive rewards. For one thing, we will each have a new name known only to ourselves and to the omniscient savior who gives it.

Verse 4

⁴ These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

⁵ And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

In the Old Testament God gave command to the people to "Take some of the 1st off all the produce of the ground which you bring in from your land that the Lord your God gives you..." (Deuteronomy 26:2) and bring it to the priest before the altar of the Lord, and remember the blessings from the Lord, and so to present that 1st of all their produce as 1st fruits.

So these 144,000 are the first fruits from the crop of those to be martyred, with more such fruit yet to come. There are more who'll turn to Christ after these 144,000 are killed, and they'll get killed too.

Jesus once said, to "work while it is yet day. The night is coming when no man can work."

By 14:6, it is no longer men who can work bringing the Gospel. Beginning at 14:6, it is angels bringing the gospel and issuing warnings to earth-dwellers.

In chapter 7, the 144,000 are still on earth, sealed with God's name, and sealed to do the job of evangelization. They are specifically said to be from Israel and from the 12 tribes of Israel they are specifically said to number 144,000, 12,000 from each tribe.

Verse 6

⁶ And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;

The conception in John's day was that the sun, when it is at its zenith at noon, was said to be Mid-heaven.

The gospel is being preached, not by men, but by angels, to every nation, tribe, tongue and people. It is as plain and predictable to them as is the sun in the sky and at noon time.

Jesus: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:12)

Jesus wasn't talking about our Christian missionary efforts throughout the centuries. It's by the missionary witness of the 144,000 and now by an angel, that the whole world perceives the gospel just as well as they perceive the sun.

By the end of chapter 14, we see the winepress of the great wrath of God being trodden, which is what Jesus Christ does on the day He comes for the second time.

Verse 7

⁷ and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

Fear God, the creator; don't worship the idol-the image of the beast anti-christ.

"It was given to the false prophet to give breath to the image of the beast (anti-christ), so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as so not worship the image if the beast to be killed." (Revelation 13:15)

Worship the creator – not the idol. Fear God- because the hour of His judgment has come.

Verse 8

⁸ And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

We have mentioned the 7 particular empires of history that have been overt oppressors of the people of God i.e., the nation of Israel.

These 7 are easily identified from history: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.

That's six. In 70 a.d., shortly after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah, the Romans destroyed the temple and scattered the Hebrew nation among the nations of the world.

From 70 a.d. there was no national Israel, until it's rebirth in 1948. Israel was reborn in a single day in May 14, 1948, in the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that the nation would be reborn one day.

It was declared a nation by the United Nations the United States at the order of Harry Truman was the first nation to declare formal recognition of the nation of Israel.

Now that Israel is a nation again, there can be a 7th empire to succeed these first 6 oppressor empires in history.

That 7th empire is this last days worldwide empire that we are now discussing in these several chapters of the Book of Revelation.

7 empires of history, all energized by the spirit of the anti-christ, by Satan. Thus you have the great red dragon, Satan, and the anti-christ beast from the sea, in Revelation chapters 12 and 13, each described as having 7 heads.

Scripture calls all 7 of these empires by the single name Babylon, after Satan's first attempt to unite all mankind into one civilization with one religion, at the tower of Babel. Babylon-Babel. You remember the account of the tower of Babel in the book of Genesis.

This 7th empire, this last days worldwide empire, is allowed by God to be the successful consummation of Lucifer's attempt at the "Tower of Babel civilization". Because it is the successful consummation the scripture here calls it Babylon the Great.

It is a civilization built on the foundation of economic wealth (we'll see in later chapters of Revelation) and on the worldwide religion of the last days.

You have to take the mark and thereby worship the anti-christ or you can't participate in the economy. This twin foundation of wealth and Luciferian religion are now about to come under God's judgment, so the angel in verse 8 says twice-fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great. Both foundations are judged – fallen – fallen.

If you remember in Isaiah 14 how Lucifer said "I'll raise my throne above the stars of God. I'll be like the most high." A Lucifer worship that will see the success in the last days of the return of Christ.

Ezekiel 28:16 says

¹⁶ By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:18 says

¹⁸ By the multitude of thine iniquities, in the unrighteousness of thy traffic, thou hast profaned thy sanctuaries; therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of thee; it hath devoured thee, and I have turned thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

It is Lucifer's love of wealth that will be the driving force if the world economy of the last days. Look for this world to become ever more unified around its economy and amazingly enough, around religion.

Verses 9-11

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

¹⁰ he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will 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 goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Do you think God is a God of love who would never throw anybody into hell? God is a God of love and he does say "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked", but He is also the God who says, "The Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

To live your life unrepentant, not bowing your knee and asking Him for His salvation in Jesus Christ, not walking with him, is the ultimate taking of His name in vain. It's the unique sign that is not pardonable.

"...Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: Fear the one who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into Hell; yes, I tell you, Fear Him!" (Luke 12:4, 5)

There's a reason Jesus said, "You must be born again." Those in this last 3 ½ years before the return of Christ, who lived under the deception and rule of Lucifer and his world ruler the anti-christ, and who have given themselves to worship of him by taking the engraving of his name into their bodies, go to Hell. They'd hear the gospel clearly, but chose the anti-christ now, even in the presence of the holy angels, and the Lamb of God who gave His life to ransom from sin, there is no attempt at rescue. That time is passed, now there is only judgment.

Verse 12

¹² Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Many will be born again during this time, and will persevere even though they're hunted, imprisoned, murdered and unable to participate in the economy, Jesus said, "When the son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?" The answer is yes, but it will be from ground down and discouraged people, who are getting martyred wholesale. Jesus said the time will come when those who kill you think they are doing God service.

Verse 13

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

You can count on the fingers on one hand the number of times the Holy Spirit Himself speaks out loud. He says these things out loud here, and bears witness to them in the hearts of these people as they persevere.

"Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with Me," Jesus said. "Even a cup of cold water given in my name will not go without reward."

While all this is transpiring on earth you and I will be in Heaven with our Lord. I firmly teach that the rapture of the church takes place before all this. While all these fearful events take place on earth, you and I will be in the marriage chamber with our new betrothed bride (so to speak). Now, by the rapture, we are betrothed. After the marriage comes the celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb. These are the events we're reading about taking place on earth.

Verse 14

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

This 4th heavenly person is not an angel; this is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is to be the literal king over this world. The increase of His kingdom will have no end, according to prophet Isaiah, That's why here He wears a golden crown (The Greek work is Diadem).

He has a harvest sickle to reap a harvest from the earth. He harvests the rebellious wicked, in this case, for their destruction. It's now time for His return, and He will perform that task. The armies of the world will gather at Armageddon to try to repel Him as He is coming back in the clouds.

He is pictured here as "one like a son of man" in the clouds. This is a direct reference to the vision of the prophet Daniel in Chapter 7.

Daniel 7:13

*¹³ "I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him. It's the 500's b.c., and Daniel and the Hebrew people
are captive to the empire of Babylon. Daniel is being given visions of some of the
same horrific events we're reading about now in Revelation.*

Jesus, in His earthy ministry, was the only one who ever used the term "Son of Man" in reference to Himself. He was identifying Himself as this Son of Man in this prophecy.

When Jesus was on trial by Caiaphas the high priest, who wanted him crucified and dead, Caiaphas put Jesus under oath, "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the son of God." Jesus answered him by quoting this scripture in Daniel and applying it to Himself.

"Hear after you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of Heaven." (Matthew 26: 63, 64)

The high priest understood this reference to Daniel, and stood up, tearing His robes, and the council of the Sanhedrin said, "He deserves death," as a blasphemer.

Daniel 7:14

*¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.*

Daniel 7:21,22

²¹ I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them ²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Daniel 7:27

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

Verses 15-17

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

¹⁶ Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

A 5th heavenly person, an angel appears now in this scene. It's time, Lord Jesus, for you to do your reaping of the earth.

In Revelation 6, at the breaking of the 5th seal of the 7 sealed scroll, people in Heaven who'd been martyred in this tribulation period, cry out to God with a loud voice:

Revelation 6: 10, 11

¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been would be completed also.

Now it's the time. The harvest of the earth is ripe.

Verse 18

¹⁸ Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."

Twice a day in ancient Israel, the priest would burn incense with fire at the brass altar at the holy place in the temple. The smoke of the sweet smelling burning incense was symbolic of the sweet aroma of the people's prayers rising to God.

We just read of prayers of martyred people of God for justice and judgment upon those shed their blood. This angel comes out from a heavenly altar of burning incense. These prayers have risen to God, and now are about to be answered, much like Revelation 8:3.

Revelation 8:3

³ Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

²⁰ And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

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