

5/2/04

### Revelation 14-15

We have seen many details in chapter 12 and 13 regarding the first 3 1/2 years that will culminate in the abomination of desolation, bringing to an end the first three and a half years of false peace.

1. God will protect and provide for Israel in the wilderness against the attack of the Antichrist.
2. Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth.
3. The Antichrist will be a type of Satan's incarnation who will lead people to worship the Dragon
4. The False prophet will promote the Antichrist who will survive a mortal head wound and all will receive a mark on their right hand or forehead to buy and sell.
5. The mark will damn men's souls and refusal to accept it will cost men their lives.

Now chapter fourteen gives us more detail, regarding the 144,000 and the anti-christ and stands in sharp contrast to chapter thirteen, then chapter fifteen records the prelude to the seven bowl judgments in chapter sixteen.

#### 14:1-5 The Lamb and the 144,000.

**14:1** Lamb Jesus.

- 1) John looked and beheld, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion. vs. 1a-c
  - a) The Lamb is Jesus Christ. Rev. 5

- 1)) He is the true God, not the anti-christ.
- 2)) He will reign in Jerusalem, as His capital.

b) Mount Zion identifies the city of Jerusalem, the city of the Living God and the future reign of the Messiah. Ps. 48:1; Is. 24:23; Joel. 2:32; Obad. 17, 21; Mic. 4:1, 7; Zech. 14:10

c) The author of Hebrews distinguishes the heavenly Zion, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels." Heb. 12:22

- 1)) Remember Israel is looking for an earthly inheritance, the land and the people go together, always.  
\* And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. Joel 2:32

2)) The church a heavenly one.

- 2) John beheld with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. Vs. 1d-e
  - a) The 144,000 are Jews, the same as in chapter seven and they are standing with the Lamb in the Kingdom. Ps. 2

- 1)) Zion shall be redeemed with justice,  
And her penitents with righteousness.  
Is. 1:27
- 2)) Many people shall come and say,  
“Come, and let us go up to the  
mountain of the LORD, To the house  
of the God of Jacob; He will teach us  
His ways, And we shall walk in His  
paths.” For out of **Zion** shall go forth  
the law, And the word of the LORD  
from Jerusalem. Is. 2:3
- b) These were sealed in contrast to the other  
group that came out of the great  
tribulation, who washed their robes in the  
blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:14
- c) The Father’s name on their foreheads  
identifies them as His, in contrast to  
those who belong to the anti-christ and  
have his mark 666.
- d) Chapter fourteen is a direct contrast to  
chapter thirteen.

**14:2-3** The celebration in heaven over the 144,  
000.

- 1) John heard a voice. vs. 2a-c
  - a) The location is from heaven, not earth, so  
it is probably angelic voices. vs. 1a
  - b) The description is like the voice of many  
waters, and like the voice of loud  
thunder, multitudes. vs. 2b-c  
\* Rev. 1:15; 6:1; 19:1, 6

- 2) John heard music. vs. 2d
  - a) And I heard the sound of harpists playing  
their harps. vs. 2d
  - b) We have seen these harps before. Rev.  
5:8
- 3) John elaborates on the heavenly scene. vs. 3
  - a) They sang as it were a new song. vs. 3a
    - 1)) The word “they” refers to the angels,  
not the 144, 000.
    - 2)) They sang before the throne, before  
the four living creatures, and the  
elders. vs. 3a-c
    - 3)) A new song in view of the might deed  
God had done in, by and through the  
144, 000.
  - b) Only the 144, 000 could learn that song.  
vs. 3d  
\* Like the new song of the church. Rev.  
5:9-10
  - c) The reason is, they were redeemed from  
the earth. vs. 3d
    - 1)) They paid the martyrs price for their  
faith.
    - 2)) Being “exagorazo” by the blood of  
the Lamb. Rev. 5:9

**14:4-5** The identifying marks of the 144, 000.  
1) First is their physical state, they are those  
who were not defiled with women, for they  
are virgins. vs. 4a-b

- a) Some say this is symbolic of being spiritually pure, I think both are included.
  - b) The literal aspect is by the double description, the second being the explanation and commentary qualifying the first.
  - c) The object is women and their state is “parthenos”, one never had sexual intercourse.
  - d) Not that there is anything is wrong with but due to the difficult time, even as Jeremiah was told not to marry and Paul says, due to the present distress. Jer. 16:2; 1Cor. 7:26
- 2) They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. vs. 4c
- a) These could very well be a type of the wise virgins who many who are ready to follow Christ at His return, like the parable of the ten virgins. Matt. 25
  - b) The prophetic time is the beginning of the Millennium, standing on Mount Zion with the Messiah.
  - c) Matthew twenty-five begins with the return of Jesus to the earth, the virgins are not the bride, they will go in with the groom to the wedding. Matt. 25:10
- 3) They were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. vs. 4d-e

- a) They were on the earth as His witnesses, then heaven and now back on earth for the Millennium.
  - b) They are the firstfruits meaning the pledge, down payment or sample of many to follow in kind.
- 4) Second is their spiritual state, in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. vs. 5
- a) Their speech is without deceit or guile, as the false religion of Beast.
  - b) Their position before God is without fault, spotless, blameless before God’s throne of not worshipping the idolatrous mark of the beast. Jude 24

#### **14:6-20      The harvest of the earth.**

##### **14:6-13    *The Three angels***

**14:6**      The proclamation of the gospel to the entire world.

- 1) John saw the first angel. vs. 6-7
  - a) He is described as another “allos” angel of the same kind, flying in the midst of heaven. vs. 6a
  - b) He is declared as having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth. vs. 6b
    - 1)) This is the same gospel we have heard and embraced.

- 2)) There is no other gospel. Gal. 1:8-9
- c) He is depicted as proclaiming the gospel to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. vs. 6d-g
- 1)) Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matt. 24:14
- a)) The church has taught the in order for Jesus to return the gospel first has to be preached to the entire world and that he can not return till this is fulfilled, but the church will never accomplish this, she has failed, the angel fulfills this task during the Great-Tribulation.
- b)) Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached** in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matt. 24:14
- 2)) We should be going out to the world and are, even as Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with

- you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matt. 28:19-20
- 2) John tells us what the angel proclaims with a loud voice the following. vs. 7
- a) He says with a load voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him”. vs. 7a-b
- b) He gives the reason, “For the hour of His judgment has come”, as judge. vs. 7c
- 1)) The very specific hour. Rev. 3:10; 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:8, 10; 15:1; 16:1, 19; 18:3; 19:15
- 2)) This being a prelude to the seven bowl judgment. Rev. 15-16
- c) He tells the world, “And worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” vs. 7d-e
- 14:8** The proclamation of the judgment and doom of Babylon.
- 1) John saw a second angel. vs. 8a
- a) He is described as another “allos” angel of the same kind, who followed the first angel.
- 2) John again tells us what the angel proclaimed. vs. 8b-f
- a) He was saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, double for emphasis.
- 1)) The prophetic aorist, literally “fell, fell”. Is. 21:8-10; Jer. 51:11
- 2)) This is the first time “Babylon “ is mentioned and the details are given to

- us in chapter 17-18, which is another parenthetical passage.
- b) He describes it as that great city. Dan. 4:30
  - c) He gives the reason for her destruction, “Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Rev. 16:19; 17:18; 18:2-3, 16-17

**14:9-11** The proclamation of damnation to those who worship the beast.

- 1) John saw a third angel. vs. 9
  - \* Then a third angel followed the first two angels. vs. 9a
- 2) John tells us what the angel proclaimed, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand.” vs. 9b-c
  - \* This is a warning against the conditions for eternal damnation for all who reject the warning!
- 3) John tells us the angels proclaimed consequences. vs. 10
  - a) The person, shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God. vs. 10a
    - \* The word is “thumos” means rage or anger but certainly not out of control as man.

- b) The severe intensity of the wrath is said, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. vs. 10b
  - \* The word indignation “orge” means against sin and evil, due to His holy character. Rom. 1:18, 25
- c) The severity is described, “He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” vs. 10c
  - 1)) Notice the two witnesses of their judgment, first in the presence of the angels, the good ones.
  - 2)) Second, in the presence of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
  - 3)) Jesus runs hell and the Lake of fire, not Satan.
- 4) John tells us the eternal nature of the punishment. vs. 11
  - a) The duration is clear, “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.” vs. 11a
    - \* Jesus said, unquenchable fire. Matt. 3:12; Mk. 9:43, 45; Lk. 3:17
  - b) The constant punishment is equally clear, as well as who they are, “And they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” vs. 1b-d
    - \* Lk. 16:26; Mk. 9:44; Rom. 2:3-9; 2Thess. 1:6-9

**14:12-13** The faithful and blessed saints.

- 1) The faithful are the tribulation saints. vs. 12
  - a) Here is the patience “hupemone” of the saints, the steadfast endurance. vs. 12a
    - \* “He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.” Rev. 13:10
  - b) Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, those who are true to God’s word and personal faith in Jesus. vs. 12b
    - \* This is not speaking to the church age but the Great-Tribulation!
- 2) The blessed are those who are martyred. vs. 13
  - a) John heard a voice from heaven speaking to him. vs. 13a
    - 1)) This could be another angel, a fourth but it doesn’t seem to be, due to the fact that John brakes off his repeated statement of “another angel”.
    - 2)) This could be Jesus speaking from heaven and probably is.
  - b) John heard the voice say, “Write: `Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” vs. 13b-c
    - 1)) This is the second beatitude in Revelation. Rev. 1:3

- 2)) There are seven in the Revelation. Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14
- 3)) The blessing is to those who die in the Lord from now on, those in the Great-Tribulation.
- 4)) Death is a blessing at this point (from now on, never is this the case in the church age.
- c) John says they have finished their course. “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” vs. 13d-g

**14:14-16** *Reaping of the earths harvest***14:14** The vision of the Son of Man.

- 1) John looked and beheld a cloud and sitting on the cloud, One like the Son of Man. vs. 14a-c
  - a) Daniel gives us this very picture. Dan. 7:13
  - b) The title first occurs in the eighth Psalm, relating to His dominion over the earth.
  - c) New Testament confirms His identity, occurring eighty-four times.
- 2) John tells us He had on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.
  - a) The word for crown is “stephonos”, the victors crown. Rev. 19:16

- b) The sickle is the instrument for harvesting, He is Lord of the harvest.

**14:15-16** The angel for the harvest.

- 1) John saw another angel, a fourth, came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud. vs. 15a-b
  - a) The difficulty in interpreting this is that an angel is giving the command to Jesus.
  - b) The Feast of Tabernacle, the ingathering of the harvest is seen by some in association.
- 2) “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” vs. 15c-e
  - a) The time is the end of the seven years of tribulation.
  - b) The harvest is for the elect and saved.
- 3) John tells us of the immediate action taken by the Son of Man. vs. 16
  - a) His identity is confirmed, “So He who sat on the cloud. vs. 16a
  - b) He thrust in His sickle on the earth, the earth is reaped in finality. vs. 16a-b
    - \* The separation of the wheat and the shaft or tares. Matt. 13:37-43; Matt. 24:30; Lk. 21:27

**14:17-20** *Reaping the grapes of wrath*

**14:17-18** The angels of judgment.

- 1) John then saw another angel, fifth. vs. 17

- a) He came out of the temple which is in heaven, under divine authority. vs. 17a
- b) He also had a sharp sickle. vs. 17b
- 2) John then saw another angel, a sixth. vs. 18
  - a) He came out from the altar. vs. 18a
  - b) He had power over fire. vs. 18b
    - \* Often fire represents judgment and the wrath of God.
  - c) He cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, the angel who came out of the temple in heaven. vs. 18c
  - d) He said, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” vs. 18d-e
    - \* The context is judgment, Isaiah used the figure of the vine for judgment! Is. 5

**14:19-20** The execution of the judgment.

- 1) The sixth angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth. vs. 19a
  - 1)) It is called the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Valley of decision. Joel 3:12-14
  - 2)) God is in control as the nations gather in the Valley of Megiddo, without violating their free-will.
  - 3) Jesus Himself treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God. Rev. 19:15

- 2) The angel threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. vs. 19b
- 1)) For the judgment by destruction, a preview of Armageddon.
  - 2)) The Mount Olives will cleave in two Zech. 14:1-4
- 3) The winepress was trampled outside the city. vs. 20a  
\* The city is Jerusalem.
- 4) The blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. vs. 20b-d
- a) The blood will run 184-200 miles, to the mouth of the horse.
  - b) All judgment given to the Son. Jn. 5:27
  - c) "Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? –“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to

uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.” Is. 63:1-6

- d) What follows is the judgment of nations. Matt. 25:31-46

### 15:1-8      Prelude to the Bowl Judgments

15:1      The proclamation to the final seven plagues.

- 1) John saw another sign in **heaven**, great and marvelous. vs. 1a-b
  - a) The first was woman. Rev. 12:1
  - b) The second was the dragon. Rev. 12:3
- 2) John saw seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. vs. 1c-d
  - a) There has been seven seals.
  - b) There has been seven trumpets.
  - c) There is to be now seven bowls.
  - d) “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Rev. 6:17

15:2-4      The martyrs of the Great-Tribulation.

- 1) The prevailing saints. vs. 2
  - a) John saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire. vs. 2a

- \* Symbolic of the Majestic brilliance of God's throne, the purity and holiness of their person and place. Rev. 4:6
- b) John also saw those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name. vs. 2b-c
  - 1)) They refused to be intimidated or co-hearse by the beasts.
  - 2)) "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." Rev. 12:11
- c) John saw them standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. vs. 2d-e
  - \* The harps symbolic of celebration and glory. Rev. 5:8, 14:2
- 2) The song of the prevailing saints and the song of the Lamb-Christ. vs. 3-4
  - a) They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God. vs. 3a-b
    - \* The song of Moses. Ex 15:1-18
  - b) They also sang the song of the Lamb. vs. 3c
    - 1)) The church as her song. Rev. 5:9
    - 2)) The 144,000 have their song. Rev. 14:3
    - 3)) The martyrs, Jew and Gentile, have their song. Rev. 15:3
      - \* The content of song is significant!
  - c) The content focuses on God. vs. 3d-4

- 1)) Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Amos 4:13
- 2)) Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Deut. 32:4
- 3)) Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? Jer. 10:7
- 4)) For You alone are holy.
  - \* "Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel." Is. 61:14
- 5)) For all nations shall come and worship before You.
  - \* "Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You." Is. 49:7
- 6)) For Your judgments have been manifested. Amos 3:7
  - \* The first is found in chapter five. Rev. 5

**15:5-6** The seven angels of the seven last plagues.

- 1) After these things John looked, and behold, the temple “naos” the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. vs. 5
  - a) The tabernacle on earth was a model of the one in heaven. Ex. 29:5; Heb. 8:5
  - b) “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.” Rev. 11:19
- 2) And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. vs. 6
  - a) The angels are in priestly dress to pour out judgment. Rev. 1:13
  - b) They are the ministers of God. Heb. 1:14

**15:7-8** The seven bowls given to the angels.

- 1) The bowls were given by a different angel. vs. 7
  - a) Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls.
  - b) They contained the full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.
- 2) The awesomeness of the judgment was understood. vs. 8

- a) The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power. vs. 8a
  - \* The shekinah glory of God. Ex 40:35; 1King 8:10-11; Ezk. 11:23
- b) And no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. vs. 8b
- c) The severity of the first judgment is clear, no one will have access to the throne during this time.