

In the middle of God's revelation about the severe judgments on the earth, we are reminded that physical terrors are not as important as the reality that every person's soul will be judged by God based on whether they repented of sin, and believed in Jesus.

Rev. 14:1 says "then I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing." Contrast this with the horrors of chapter 13 -- Lamb in place of the Beast. Victorious saints instead of suffering saints. These have the Lamb's seal instead of the Beast's mark. Here we see God's control from Mt. Zion, instead of the Beast's dominance of the earth.

This is the ultimate triumph for the saints who refuse the beast's mark. At the same time, we see the ultimate doom for those who reject God and the Lamb.

### **ETERNAL DESTINIES ARE PROCLAIMED THROUGH FINAL JUDGMENTS.**

#### **1 THE ETERNAL DESTINY OF THE 144,000 WAS COMPLETELY VICTORIOUS, 14:1-5.**

A. These uniquely purchased and sealed Jewish men learned a new salvation song, 14:1-5

1. The Lamb was standing on Mt. Zion victorious with the 144,000, 14:1  
The Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ, was standing (not sitting) victorious on Mt. Zion (Mt. of Olives) because He had returned to earth.

This is the end of the Tribulation -- Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11-12; Ps. 48:1-2.

These were sealed with His name, 14:1.

2. A loud melodious voice like many harpists from heaven sang, 14:2.
3. Only the 144,000 on earth could learn this special song, 14:3.

B. These uniquely purchased people were blameless, 14:4-5.

3 descriptions, each introduced by "these."

1. Free from females. Male celibates.
2. Faithful followers of Jesus.
3. First-fruits. They were the first to be saved and sealed at the start of the Tribulation (Rev. 7) as a godly remnant for the future of the nation of Israel. They were redeemed, sealed, and specially protected by God during the entire 7 years of judgments.

## **2 GOD WILL USE ANGELS TO PROCLAIM TO EVERYONE THEIR DESTINY THROUGH FINAL JUDGMENTS, 14:6-13**

Here we have a sequence of 3 different angels flying in midheaven.

A. The eternal Gospel is preached to everyone by an angel, 14:6-7.

This is not the gospel message in the sense of 1 Cor. 15:1-6 only. This content is found in verse 7 = good news to a deceived world - "fear God and live." God's grace abounds in every age.

B. The 2nd angel pronounces to everyone the judgment on immoral Babylon, 14:8.  
See Rev. 17-18.

C. The 3rd angel proclaims to everyone that beast worshippers will be tormented forever, 14:9-11.

1. Anyone who worships the Lawless world ruler & receives his mark will experience God's wrath, 14:9-10.

2. God's wrath is painful torment with no rest forever, 14:10c-11.

The torment is from heat and flames forever. This introduces part of what the Bible teaches about the eternal torment of people who reject the Lord.

a. It is the torment of continual torment from the fires of hell.

b. This torment lasts forever.

c. This eternal hell will be the opposite of a "party with friends." Look carefully at Luke 16:19-31 - the rich man & Lazarus.

d. This judgment will be in a dark place with "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 22:13; 25:30).

This torment is in the presence of holy angels and the Lamb Himself. Why? It starts there, but no unbeliever can stay in the presence of the Lord -- 2 Thess. 1:9-10; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:14-15.

D. Saints who are martyred are blessed, 14:12-13.

1. True saints persevere through physical death, 14:12.

What keeps the saints going during this holocaust is the knowledge that their persecution is only temporary.

2. Tribulation saints who were killed (some martyred) receive special blessing from God, 14:13.

This is the 2nd beatitude (see 1:3). "From now on.." because this is the worst of the worst time in human history.

Rev. 7:14-17 described the special reward for them in the temple "before the throne of God" in heaven.

When the judgments are complete, some believers will be dead already as martyrs. Some believers will still be alive as the end of the Tribulation, and these "sheep" (Mt. 25) will enter the millennial kingdom in their physical bodies. They will be able to marry and procreate during the earthly kingdom reign of Jesus Christ.

### **3 THE VINEYARD OF THE EARTH IS RIPE FOR GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENTS, 14:14-20.**

What is the relationship between the 2 sickles in this vision? "Sickle" here is a symbol for the harvest of people in judgment authorized by God.

- (1) The Lord authorizes a sickle "over" the earth.  
This is the sickle of the "Son of Man."
- (2) An angel executes "to" the earth. This is the sickle of the angel, 14:17-20,
  - A. The Son of Man is authorized by heaven to reap judgment over the earth, 14:14-16.
    1. The Son of Man appeared ready to judge, 14:14.
    2. Another angel shouted loudly that the earth is ripe for judgment, 14:15.
    3. The Son of Man acted to authorize the final judgment, 14:16.
  - B. The angel out of the temple was authorized by heaven to execute judgment on the earth, 14:17-20.
    1. The angel was ready to reap judgment, 14:17.
    2. An angel came from the prayers of God's people and authorized the reaping, 14:18.
    3. The first angel reaped people into the wine press of God's wrath, 14:19-20.
      - a. God's wrath is depicted this way in Isa. 63:3-4.
      - b. The extent of the blood is 200 miles.

This event previews the result of the Lord's 2nd Coming to the earth in Rev. 19:15. (see also Rev. 19:17-18, "the great supper of God.")

God will bring an end to everyone who rejects the Gospel. No unbeliever will be left on this earth after God judges the world when He returns.

Matthew 25:31-33; 34 & 41.

Summary: Matt. 25:46. (See Isa. 34:1-3; Ezek. 39:17-20)

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