

Chapter 14

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* A summary chapter of what is going to happen in **Chapters. 15-19**

The last 3½ years

* Two questions answered

What happens to those refusing the mark? (vs.1-5)

What happens to the beast and his followers? (vs.6-20)

Scene 1 – The Lamb and the 144,000

Vs.1

A. **The 144,000** (servants of God – 7:3)

a. Description

i. Standing on Mt. Zion with the Lamb

1. *Earthly Zion?* – **Psalm 132:13,14,17,18**

a. Millennial reign – 144,00 are here to meet Christ

2. *Heavenly Jerusalem?* – **Psalm 2:6**

a. Perhaps this scene anticipates Christ's earthly reign

3. **Hebrews 12:22-24**

ii. Name of lamb/his father written on their foreheads

1. Seal that protects them from God's wrath, not Satan's

2. Identified with Christ and the Father

Vs.2,3

➤ **A sound from heaven (vs.2)**

- Rushing waters
- Loud peal of thunder
- Like harpists playing their harps

iii. They sang a new song

1. A song unique to them

2. No one could learn it but them

a. No one had gone through what they did

iv. Redeemed from the earth

1. Martyred?

Vs.4

v. Did not defile themselves with women

1. Did not lead a normal life because of “the cause”
2. A special commitment
- vi. They follow the Lamb
 1. 100% commitment
- vii. Were purchased from men
 1. Gave their lives
- viii. Offered as first-fruits to God/Lamb
 1. Perhaps first Jews to be saved?
 2. Set apart at the beginning of the Tribulation
- ix. No lie was found in their mouths
 1. They did not believe the lie (**II Thessalonians 2:9-11**)
- x. They are blameless
 1. 100% commitment to The Way

Scene 2 – The Proclamation of Three Angels

Vs.6,7

A. The Angels

a. Angel #1 (vs.6,7)

- i. Flying in mid-air (literal)
 1. New way to preach the gospel
 2. Last time “gospel” is used
- ii. Proclaimed the gospel on the earth
 1. Gospel of salvation or gospel of coming judgment
 2. All nations/tribe/language/people
 3. “*Fear God, and give Him glory...*”
 - a. It was shouted
 - b. To fear God is to hate sin
 - c. **Matthew 10:28** – “*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*”
 4. “*...hour of judgment has come.*”
 - a. The last 3½ years
 5. Worship Him who made heavens/earth/sea/springs of water
 - a. The source
 - b. Christ was there at creation

Vs.8

b. Angel #2 (vs.8)

- i. Message (anticipates the events of chpt.17,18)
 1. “*Fallen is Babylon the Great*”
 - a. Babylon – kingdom of the Antichrist
 - i. God’s name for the world system of the antichrist
 - b. Enemy of God and Israel
 - c. Will happen at end of Tribulation

Vs.9-11

- c. **Angel #3 (vs.9-13)** – to those who follow the beast
 - i. If anyone worships the beast and receives the mark
 - 1. Will drink of the wine of God’s fury
 - a. Full strength, not watered down
 - 2. Will be tormented with burning sulfur
 - a. Lake of Fire
 - i. **Matthew 25:41** – “
 - ii. **Revelation 20:10,14,15; 21:8**
 - b. Smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever
 - c. No rest day/night from the torment
 - i. Eternal torment, not annihilation
 - ii. Horror, agony, misery, separation

Vs.12,13

- ii. Those who don’t follow the beast (**vs.13**)
 - 1. Be patient
 - 2. Blessed are those who now die in the Lord
 - a. They will be at rest
 - b. Their deeds will follow them

Better to reign with Christ forever than with Antichrist for a few short years! Better to endure persecution patiently now than to escape it and suffer throughout eternity!

➤ **Message of the 3 angels**

- Eternal gospel and punishment to come
- Mighty Babylon will fall
- Warning against yielding to the Beast

Scene 3 – Reaping the Earth’s Harvest

Vs.14-16

A. Harvest from the Earth

- a. **Harvest #1** – “*a son of man*” (**vs.14-16**) Christ (Matthew – 25 times)
 - i. Seated on a cloud with a crown of gold on head
 - ii. Sharp sickle in his hand
 - iii. Told to harvest the earth
 - 1. Believers?
 - iv. Reaping of the godly??
 - 1. Mass resurrection or martyrdom?

Vs.17-20

- b. Harvest #2 – “another angel” (vs.17-20)**
- i. From out of the temple in heaven
 - ii. A sharp sickle
 - 1. Reaping of the ungodly?
 - iii. Told to harvest the grapes
 - 1. Trampled outside the city
 - 2. Blood flowed out of the press
 - 3. Rose as high as horses bridles for 180 miles
 - 4. **Revelation 16:16** – “*Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*”
 - iv. Battle of Armageddon (50 miles northwest of Jerusalem)
- Isaiah 63:1-7 Revelation 19:13-21 II Thessalonians 2:8-12 Zechariah 14:2 Joel 3:9-17

William Kelly regards this chapter as an outline of major events at the end of the Age: (1) the appearance of the godly remnant of Israel; (2) a testimony to Gentiles; (3) the fall of Babylon; (4) the doom of the worshipers of the beast; (5) the blessedness of saints who are martyred; (6) the harvest; (7) the wrath of God on the world (*Lectures on the Book of Revelation*, p. 330)
