

The Book of Revelation Chapters 14-16

Revelation 14:1-5 ¹Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Comment: Chapter 14 continues the symbolism of God's spiritual focus returning to the nation of Israel, the Jewish people. We see the mention of the 144,000, which are from the 12 tribes of Israel (Rev. 7:4). Mount Zion is mentioned for the first and only time in Revelation, which is always in reference to Israel and Jerusalem, which is the city of God.

Mount Zion Has Always Been Symbolic of Jerusalem

- **Psalm 2:5-6** ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."
- **Psalm 110:1-2** The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ² The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
- **Joel 3:16-17** ¹⁶ The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ¹⁷ "So you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."
- **Hebrews 12:22-23** ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Revelation 14:6-13 ⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, **for the hour of His judgment has come**; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." ⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." ⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his***

mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall 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 ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ **Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."**

Comments: The number of the beast is 666 (Rev. 13:18). This number has symbolism of “no rest.” In the Old Testament, work is to be done in 6 days and rest is on the 7th day. Land was to be planted for 6 years and it was to receive rest in the 7th year (Lev. 25:3-4). Those who receive the mark of the beast will “**have no rest day or night**” (verse 11).

Revelation 13:15 states that “*He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* Also, in Revelation 13:17, it says that “*and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*” This may explain Revelation 14:12, “*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*”

Notice: We will see in verses 17 through 20, that “the wine of the wrath of God” in verse 10 that the followers of the beast must drink from “the cup of His indignation” is the fermented blood of the wicked.

Question: What are your thoughts about Revelation 13:15, 17, and Revelation 14:12 concerning the patience of the saints?

Revelation 14:14-16 ¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Comments: The “everlasting gospel” that is preached in Revelation 14:6-7 has produced a harvest that is now ready to be reaped.

Matthew 24:30-31 ³⁰ "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Revelation 14:17-20 ¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple, which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, **for her grapes are fully ripe.**" ¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the **great winepress of the wrath of God.** ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and **blood came out of the winepress,** up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Comment: In Revelation 14:6-13, we saw three angels come out of heaven:

1. The 1st angel preached the gospel to all people.
2. The 2nd angel declared that Babylon was destroyed.
3. The 3rd angel declared that anyone that worships the beast and receives his mark on their forehead will drink the fullness of God's wrath.

Notice: There are two harvests. After the first angel preaches the gospel (v. 6), the Son of Man, who sits on the cloud with a golden crown on His head, harvests the earth of those who belong to the Son of Man, which we understand is Jesus Christ (vv. 15-16). However, after the second and third angels, another angel comes out of the temple that is in heaven with a sharp sickle. Here, this angel will harvest the wicked (v. 19). The trampling of grapes in the winepress has always been symbolic of God's wrath being imposed on evil people.

Isaiah 63:2-4 ² Why *is* Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ "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." ⁴ For the day of vengeance *is* in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.

Joel 3:12-13 ¹² "Let the nations be wakened and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow-- for their wickedness *is* great."

Notice: In verses 19-20, the winepress is "*the great winepress of the wrath of God.*" Also notice that blood came out of the great winepress of the wrath of God. This blood (the blood of the wicked) is the wine of God's winepress that is full strength and poured into the cup of His indignation that the wicked must drink (v. 10).

Chapters 15-16

Revelation 15:1-4 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. ² And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. ³ **They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!"** ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You alone are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested."

Comment: Take note of verse 1. Up to this point, we have seen a series of 7 plagues on earth from heaven. Seven seals, seven trumpets, and then seven bowls or vials of God's wrath. These last seven plagues will complete God's wrath on earth. The Great Tribulation is a progression. Each series of plagues further intensifies God's wrath.

Notice: Verse 3 is significant because it makes an important reference from the Old Testament (the song of Moses) and the New Testament (the song of the Lamb). The Old Testament focuses on the Jews and the New Testament begins the inclusion of the Gentiles.

John 10:15-16 ¹⁵ "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

*****Note, the other sheep are the Gentiles. In other words, Jews and Gentiles will become one flock under one shepherd.**

Romans 11:25-26 ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, **that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "**The Deliverer will come out of Zion**, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

Revelation 15:5-8 ⁵After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. ⁸ The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation 16:1-9 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." ² So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. ³ Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died. ⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and **You have given them blood to drink.** For it is their just due." ⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments." ⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. ⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Comment: These plagues are like the plagues of judgment on Egypt when God delivered His people from their bondage in Egypt. Also notice that some of the bowls have similar effects as the trumpets, but the effects are intensified when the bowls are poured out.

The Trumpets

2nd Trumpet Sounds: A third of the sea turns to blood and a third of living creatures in the sea die (Rev. 8:8-9).

3rd Trumpet Sounds: A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water (Rev. 8:10).

4th Trumpet Sounds: a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night (Rev. 8:12).

The Bowls

2nd Bowl Poured Out: Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died (Rev. 16:3).

3rd Bowl Poured Out: Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood (Rev. 16:4).

4th Bowl Poured Out: ⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. ⁹ And men were scorched with great heat (Rev. 16:8-9).

Comment: Also notice the statement that God has “given them blood to drink” (v. 6). This was previously stated that the wicked will drink the wine of God’s wrath, which is the blood of the wicked, from the cup of God’s indignation (Rev. 14:10, 19). This gives Holy Communion greater significance to the Christian because we, as believers in Christ, ceremoniously drink the blood of an innocent, sinless man, the Christ, the Son of God. However, unbelievers will drink the blood of evildoers.

Revelation 16:10-16 ¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and **they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.** ¹¹ **They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.** ¹² Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. ¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, **to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.** ¹⁵ **"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."** ¹⁶ **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

Comment: In verses 10 and 11, the kingdom of the beast became full of darkness. When God gives people over to the darkness that they desire, they cannot repent. They only become more resistant to God. Through false signs of the dragon and the false prophet, earthly kings and kingdoms are gathered to Armageddon to do battle against God on the great day.

Notice: Verse 15 is in red letters in your Bible because it is the Lord Jesus Christ speaking. His statement is made before the final bowl is poured out, which is the completion of God's wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-5 ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.** ⁵ **You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.**

2 Peter 3:10-14 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

Revelation 16:17-21 ¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. ²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Comment: As the final bowl is poured out, the world comes to utter destruction. The phrase in verse 17 "It is done!" expresses the completion of God's wrath on the wicked. Cities collapse, earthquakes destroy the earth, mountains crumble, and islands disappears, and the kingdom of darkness is confronted by God. It is interesting that the great city, Jerusalem, is not destroyed but split in three.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.