



Chapter 14

- The Lamb
- The 144,000
- The Three Angels
 - Angel with the Gospel
 - Angel with the Doom of Babylon
 - Angel with Fury on Those Who Worship the Beast
- Chapter 13 portrays the Tribulation from the Devil's perspective
- Chapter 14 describes the Tribulation from God's Word (Truth)

Chapter 14

Verse 1- *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*

Then I looked- This serves as part of an outline for the chapter:

- Verse 1- *I looked*
- Verse 6- *I saw*
- Verse 13- *I heard*

the Lamb- In contrast to the last chapter, this is Jesus who the false prophet will try to impersonate.

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Verse 1- *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*

Mount Zion- Is this on earth or in heaven? Probably on earth if the 144,000 are there (didn't die and go to heaven). Again, this is in contradistinction to the two beasts- one from the sea and one from the land. The Lamb (Jesus) is the authentic Savior who stands on the holy mountain (the New Jerusalem), not in Babylon.

144,000- This is the same group we saw in 7:4.

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Verse 1- *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*

His name and the name of His Father- They will have the names of Jesus and the Father on their foreheads in contrast to those on earth who will have the mark of the Antichrist on their right hand or forehead (13:16).

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Verse 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.*

a voice from heaven- This voice is loud, and John uses three similes to describe it:

- *many waters*
- *loud thunder*
- *harpists playing harps*

It could be that John first hears indistinct loud singing, then the harpists, and finally the song itself in the celebration.

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Verse 3- *And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth.*

sang a new song- This reminds us of Revelation 5:9- this is a song of redemption.

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation."

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Verse 3- *And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth.*

Throughout the book of Psalms, the "new song" (33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1) is a hymn of praise for the fact that the God of creation has delivered his people as well as a call to the saints to put their trust completely in him.

no one was able to learn the song- Only the redeemed of the ages can sing this new song of praise, deliverance and trust.

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Verse 4- *These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.*

they are celibate- Physically or spiritually? It speaks to the total commitment they exhibit to God and his purpose on their lives. God instituted marriage in Genesis and Peter took his wife along on missionary journeys.

1 Corinthians 9:5- *Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?*

Chapter 14

Verse 4- *These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.*

follow the Lamb- Those who follow the Lamb while living on earth will follow Him to eternal life in heaven.

first fruits- the only time this term appears in the book. The 144,000 are the first fruits of the full harvest, the entire body of believers throughout time (Feast of Weeks in Exodus 34:22).

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Verse 5- *And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.*

no lie was found in their mouths- Christians are not like unbelievers who “exchanged the truth of God for a lie” (Rom. 1:25). First, they lie to others, then to themselves, then their life becomes a lie. The man tells a lie, then the lie tells a lie, then the lie takes the man.

Lying is a defining characteristic of the devil, the beast, the false prophets (Isa. 9:15; Jer. 14:14; 20:6; 23:25–32; 27:8–22; 29:21; Zech. 13:3) and their followers (Rom. 1:24–25; Rev. 21:8, 27).

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Verse 5- *And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.*

they are blameless- not perfect (sinless), but without the defining characteristic of being false.

The word translated “blameless” is the Greek *amōmoi* (*a* = *negates*) (*momos* = *blemish*), which describes an animal that has passed inspection (qualified) because it has no visible defect.

1 Timothy 3:2- “*blameless*”- *anepilēmpton* (*a* = *negates*) (*epi* = *against*) (*lambano* = *to hold*) “*not to hold against*”

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Verse 5- *And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.*

John gives four characteristics of the redeemed from the earth:

- they are pure
- they are followers of the Lamb
- they are firstfruits
- they are blameless

Keeping Short Accounts With God and Others

1. Confess Sin

- Continually
- Quickly
- In Particular

2. Repent and make it right (if possible)

3. Forgive others as many times as it takes

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Verse 6- *And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people;*

I saw another angel- Angels are mentioned in every chapter (4 - 14) except chapter 13. Following the vision of the Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt. Zion, John has three visions introduced by different angels:

- 1st Angel (verses 6-7)- preaches an eternal gospel
- 2nd Angel (verse 8)- predicts the fall of Babylon
- 3rd Angel- (verses 9-11)- pronounces judgment on those who follow the Beast

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Verse 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."*

This first angel's command is given to those "who dwell on the earth" (v. 6), the beast worshipers (v. 9). It is a call for them to fear God instead of the Beast and to repent in order to avoid the judgment that will be described in verses 8–11.

Those who refuse to worship God as Savior will worship Him as God the Creator.

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Verse 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."*

The reference to sky, land, salt water, and fresh water reminds us that God has already destroyed a third of these (8:7–13) and is on the verge of unmaking them completely in His terrible judgment.

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Verse 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 sexual immorality."*

another angel- a second angel has a message in contrast to the pure 144,000. Babylon (to be studied fully in chapters 17-18) is described in terms of prostitution. This is angel pronounces judgment because no one responds to the gospel message of the first angel.

Babel- The source of all false religion and idolatry.

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Verse 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 sexual immorality."*

Babel- An expression of man's desire to disobey God.

Genesis 1:28 (Before the Flood) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth**, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 9:1 (After the Flood) Then God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth**."

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Verse 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 sexual immorality."*

Babel- An expression of man's desire to disobey God.

Genesis 11:1 Now all the earth used the same language and the same words. And it came about, as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and **settled there**.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise, **we will be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth**."

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Verse 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 sexual immorality."*

Babel- An expression of man's desire to disobey God.

Genesis 11:7-8 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So **the Lord scattered them abroad** from there over the face of all the earth; and they stopped building the city.

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Verse 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,*

another angel- a third and final angel pronounces that it is an "unpardonable sin" to worship the Beast and receive his mark.

This is a theme for the rest of the book- a decision to worship God or the Beast, and the result of that choice- eternal life or eternal torment.

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Verse 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.*

wrath of God- Jesus is the only one who has (and ever will) drink from this cup successfully. God will force those in rebellion to drink from the cup of His wrath.

Matthew 26:39- *And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, **let this cup pass from Me**; yet not as I will, but as You will."*

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Verse 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.*

mixed in full strength- not diluted ("mixed unmixed")

In the seven bowl judgments (Rev. 15-18) we will study the pouring out of the wrath of God. It was common in the first century to mix wine and water 1:1.

This is a conditional sentence- "If...then..."

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Verse 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.*

IF (Protasis) Verse 9	THEN (Apodasis) Verse 10
"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,	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.

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Verse 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.*

fire and brimstone- Brimstone was a type of asphalt found particularly in volcanic deposits and produced both intense heat and terrible smell (sulfur). When sulfur burns, it produces sulfur dioxide, a gas that burns eyes and lungs.

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Verse 11- *And the smoke of their torment ascends 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.”*

forever and ever- Hell lasts for eternity and is torment for those in it.

What is Hell Like?

It's dark

- Realm of darkness (Nahum 1:8)
- Thrown outside into the darkness (Matthew 8:12; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:30)
- Blackest darkness (Jude 1:13)
- “Plunged into darkness” (Revelation 16:10)
- Question: What about the light fire gives?

What is Hell Like?

There's weeping and gnashing of teeth

- Matthew 13:41-43
- Matthew 8:12
- Matthew 13:50
- Matthew 22:13
- Matthew 24:51
- Matthew 25:30
- Luke 13:28

What is Hell Like?

There's fire

- “Blazing furnace” (Matthew 13:42; Matthew 13:50)
- “Fire of hell” (Matthew 5:22; Matthew 18:9)
- “Eternal fire” (Matthew 18:8; Matthew 25:41)
- “Unquenchable fire” (Mark 9:43; Mark 9:48)
- “Tormented with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 14:10)

What is Hell Like?

There's separation from God

- “Shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.” (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:41)
- “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46)

What is Hell Like?

It's eternal

- Matthew 25:31-46
- Mark 9:42-48
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
- Jude 7

Next week...

Chapter 15-
“Preparation for the
Bowl Judgments”

