

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 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.

Chapter 14

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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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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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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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.

Chapter 14

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

Chapter 14

Verse 12- *Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.*

perseverance- occurs ten times (1:3; 2:26; 3:3, 8, 10; 12:17; 14:12; 16:15; 22:7, 9). On every occasion it means to “follow” and “obey” God’s commands, to “guard” the truths of God in a world that has chosen darkness over light. (Calvin’s T-U-L-I-P) (depravity, election, atonement, grace, perserverance)

commandments of God...faith in Jesus- is a reference to the revelation of the old and new covenants, to which the faithful remain loyal. “Faith” refers to the doctrinal content of the Christian faith (cf. Jude 3)

Chapter 14

Verse 13- *And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."*

The Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

1. *Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near. (1:3).*
2. *And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." (14:13).*

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The Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

3. *"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and people will not see his shame." (16:15)*
4. *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." (19:9).*

Chapter 14

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The Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

5. *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.(20:6).*

6. *"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."(22:7).*

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The Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

7. *Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates. (22:14).*

Chapter 14

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who die in the Lord- as opposed to the people of the earth who have made this world their only concern.

their deeds follow them- God will acknowledge at their final judgment the evidence that they were true Christians: patient endurance, obeying God's commands, and keeping the faithfulness of Jesus. (Salvation first, then works, not vice versa)

Chapter 14

Verse 14- *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.*

white cloud- God's presence

son of man- Jesus (cf. 1:13)

golden crown- diadem, not *stephanos*

sickle- a hand blade. It's sharpened (He is prepared).



Chapter 14

Verse 15- *And another angel came out of the temple, calling out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe."*

Why is an angel telling Jesus what to do? Because he is coming directly from the heavenly temple with a message from the Father.

ripe- (exeranthé) overly ripe to being dry or withered. God has been longsuffering and patient to the last possible moment of exacting His wrath. The rotten moral state of the world must be reaped and judged (Noah and the ark). Is this first harvest believers and the second the wicked? If so, why are they "overly ripe and withered?"

Chapter 14

Verse 16- *Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

the earth was reaped- God is the Creator and has the right to "harvest" the earth. Some Bible commentators equate this with the rapture.

Chapter 14

Verse 17- *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.*

another angel- This is the fifth angel of the chapter. This harvest is different than the grain harvest. The grain harvest was completed by mid-June and the grape harvest was in October/September.

sharp sickle- This blade has been sharpened, meaning the user was prepared for the moment.

Chapter 14

Verse 18- *Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."*

power over fire- This is the only angel said to have charge of the fire, but there are similarities between this angel and the one who initiated the trumpet sequence (8:3–5). That angel also had been associated with fire and with the altar of incense in the heavenly temple.

vine of the earth- not the heavenly vine, but those who live, love, and depend on the earth.

Chapter 14

Verse 18- *Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."*

- 1. v. 6 *"another angel" flying in midair with the message to fear God*
- 2. v. 8 *"a second angel" following the first with the message that Babylon has fallen*
- 3. v. 9 *"a third angel" following the second with the message of eternal torment*
- 4. v. 15 *"another angel" from the temple with the command to reap the grain*
- 5. v. 17 *"another angel" from the temple who gathers the grapes with his sickle*
- 6. v. 18 *"another angel" from the altar with the command to gather the grapes*

Chapter 14

Verse 19- *So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.*

Isaiah 63:3: *"I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing"*

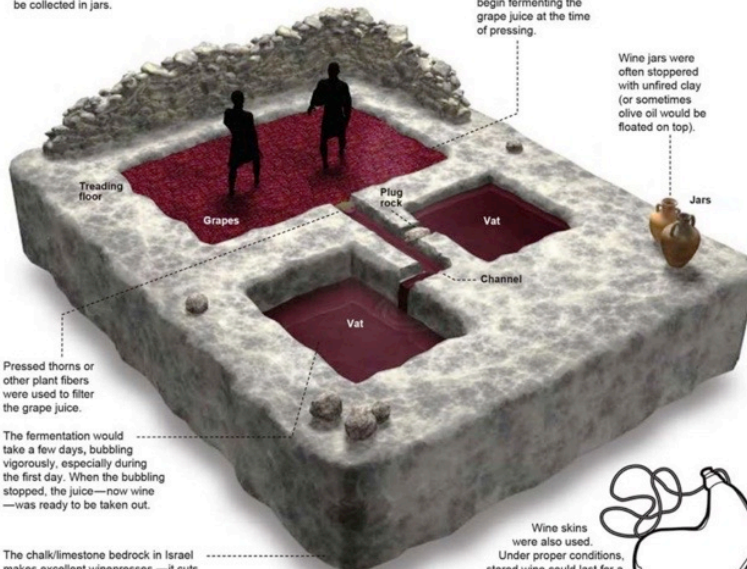
Joel 3:13- *Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.*

A Winepress in Ancient Israel

An ancient winepress was a rock-hewn open-air system. Grapes were pressed by being trodden underfoot in a treading floor. The juice would pour through a channel into a vat, where it would ferment. It would then be collected in jars.

The yeast from the skin of the grapes would begin fermenting the grape juice at the time of pressing.

Wine jars were often stoppered with unfired clay (or sometimes olive oil would be floated on top).

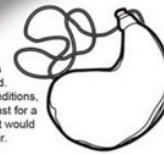


Pressed thorns or other plant fibers were used to filter the grape juice.

The fermentation would take a few days, bubbling vigorously, especially during the first day. When the bubbling stopped, the juice—now wine—was ready to be taken out.

The chalk/limestone bedrock in Israel makes excellent winepresses—it cuts easily and holds liquid well.

Wine skins were also used. Under proper conditions, stored wine could last for a year. If left exposed, it would soon turn to vinegar.



Chapter 14

Verse 20- *And the wine press was trampled outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of 1,600 stadia.*

outside the city- winepresses were located in the country where grapes were harvested.

blood- John's readers would be familiar with the image of grape juice being squeezed from the press and flowing to the vats.

up to the horses' bridles- four feet? This is a river of blood 180 miles long that stretches the entire length of Israel-Dan (N) to Beersheeba (S).

Next week...

Chapter 15-
“Preparation for the
Bowl Judgments”

