

This is the future – what Jesus says “will take place later.”

Ch. 14 “Pleas from the Angels”

This occurs before the final series of seven bowls of wrath which starts in Rev. 15.

Rev. 14:1-5 – “Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders.” Who are these 144,000?

Rev. 7:3-8 – An angel ascending from the rising sun told the 4 angels who had power to harm earth and sea; “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the **servants of our God** on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:” It then lists 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Can you name them?

The Mysterious 144,000

Rev. 14:3-5 - ...“No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.”

1. Men who are sexually pure and have remained celibate and did not marry
2. Followers of Jesus
3. Firstfruits for God and Jesus – **1 Cor. 15:20** – “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” **Lev. 23:17** – “From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord.”
The first sheaf of the harvest given to the Lord as a token that all the harvest belonged to the Lord and would be dedicated to him through dedicated lives.
4. Teachers of Christ that oppose the Antichrist during the tribulation and are blameless (innocent of wrongdoing)

The Pleas of the Angels

John sees four angels, each with a warning to those on earth during this time.

1. The first angel – “Fear God and give him glory...judgement has come.” This angel will preach the good news that righteous judgement is here. **Rom. 8:1** – “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Can you see it?
2. The second angel – “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great.” This angel will proclaim that the worldly economic and religious system of the Antichrist has fallen. How will this affect the world?
3. The third angel – “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury,...” This angel will give a warning to those living during this time to not worship the beast but trust in the one true God. He calls for patient endurance for the saints or experience eternal torment. **Math. 25:41** – When Jesus is on his throne: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels’.” How do you envision Hell?

Gehenna – Greek word meaning Hell referring to the Valley of Gehenna outside of Jerusalem. A site of ancient pagan worship and human sacrifice. It became the local city garbage dump with constant burning. **Rev. 14:11** – “...the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever.” Have you ever thought of Hell as being eternal torment forever and ever?

4. The fourth angel – the angel will call out to the other angels; “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” **Math. 13:41** – “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.” Jesus and his angels will eradicate evil from the earth. Jesus explains that the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom of heaven and are sowed by him. The weeds are the sons of the evil one and are sowed by the Devil. Have you ever thought of this in examining good and evil in your life and other’s lives?

Rev. 14:20 – “And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.” The grapes represent the weeds which are gathered and thrown into the winepress to be crushed. 1,600 stadia is about 180 miles, “the approximate length of the nation of Israel, north to south, where the Final Battle takes pace.” Coincidence?

When there is a brush fire, the way to survive is to burn a controlled fire around you so there is nothing to burn. Jesus is that controlled fire around us. “The foot of the cross where his judgement has already fallen” is where we should be. Are you there?

Ch. 15 “Our God Saves”

Rev. 15:2 – “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire – and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.” Who is John seeing?

Rev. 15:3 – “And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, ...”

1. **The Song of Moses – Exodus 15:1-21** – “Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:” They sang glorifying God for saving them from Pharaoh’s army.
2. **The Song of the Lamb** – And the Tribulation saints will sing of God’s victory over the Antichrist. They sing glorifying God for saving them from the beast.

How are the two songs similar and how are they different?

1. Both songs are sung beside a sea.
2. Both songs are sung after a great victory.
3. Both songs glorify God. One to the Father, and one to the Son.

Rev. 15:5-8 – “After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. And 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, and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.”

This begins the pouring out of the bowls, the seven plagues of the wrath of God on the earth.

Rev. 15:3-4 – “Great and marvelous are your deeds. Just and true are your ways. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

God is the ultimate righteous judge of the universe who can do no wrong. What prevents you from worshipping our heavenly Father in this glorifying way?