

The Study of the Book of Revelation

Revelation's Final Message!

Chapter 14

REVIEW:

Revelation chapter 12 identifies God's REMNANT people who will be the final focus of Satan's anger at the end of time.

Revelation chapter 13 identifies the issue of THE MARK OF THE BEAST that will draw God's people into the final conflict. We reviewed several identifying characteristics of the BEAST power and what his sign or mark is. We learned that the seventh day Sabbath was established by God as an ETERNAL SIGN of the covenant between God and His people. While the mark of the beast, established by Satan through Papal Rome, is Sunday worship.

In contrast to those who receive the Mark of the Beast on their forehead, we see in Revelation 14 a picture of those who have *"his Father's name written in their foreheads"* standing on Mount Zion with Jesus the LAMB. It is a glorious picture of victory in Jesus. Here we have a picture of a people who know God as Savior and King. They have entered His presence on Mount Zion to seek refuge from the beast power. In His presence, they are safe.

THIS STUDY:

Revelation 14:1-6

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"

Let's break this down and take a closer look.

Revelation 14:1

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

The Significance of Mount Zion in Bible Prophecy

2 Key Points:

Point #1 Mount Zion represents Jerusalem, God's sanctuary and His people.

Isaiah 2:1-3

*“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem And it shall come to pass in the last days, that **the mountain of the LORD'S house** shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: **for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**”*

Psalms 132:13

“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.”

Psalms 87:5,6

“And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.”

The Children of Israel came from the wilderness to God's mountain at Sinai to receive His laws. Zion later replaces Sinai as God's holy mountain. At the ascension, Jesus ascended to heaven. The book of Hebrews identifies God's heavenly dwelling as the new and ultimate Mount Zion. Paul, in Hebrews, links Mount Sinai to Mount Zion as he contrasts the two. (See Exodus 19:10-25 and Deut. 4:10-13 for background material concerning Paul's references to Sinai in the first portion of the verses in Hebrews 12.)

Hebrews 12:18-24:

*“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) **But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.**”*

Point #2 Mount Zion is the object of Satan's envy.

Isaiah 14:12-14 *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.**”*

Satan wants to usurp God's throne. He no longer has access to the heavenly sanctuary because of Christ's victory on the cross. So now, Satan's only access to Zion is through the faithful followers of Christ who have received their heavenly citizenship on the mount.

Revelation 14:2,3

*“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the **voice of many waters**, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And **they sung***

as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”

We have already learned that in prophetic symbolism that waters represent peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. Therefore, the voice of **many waters** represents large multitudes.

Revelation 15:2-4

*“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, **having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb**, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”*

The redeemed sing the new song. The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-19) was a song of triumph over Israel’s enemies. The Song of the Lamb is a song of victory over the enemies of Spiritual Israel.

“No man could learn” This song (of spiritual victory) except those who are redeemed from the earth by their faith and obedient walk with Christ-those who follow His commandments and know Him as their personal Savior.

There are eight essential characteristics of the 144,000.

Characteristic #1: The 144,000 is a symbolic number representing God's people at the end of time who receive the seal of God instead of the mark of the beast.

Revelation 7:2-4

*“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having **the seal of the living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads**. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an **hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel**.”*

Revelation 7:9

*“After this I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;”*

At the second coming of Christ, His saints will be divided into two parts, those that are living and will be translated without see death, and those that have died and will resurrected. When Christ comes, He gathers all of people from all ages and from all over the world and takes them with Him back to heaven. The 144,000 is not a literal number, but rather a symbolic number representing the living saints when Christ comes. The great multitude represents God’s people who have died and are resurrected when Christ comes.

Characteristic #2: The 144,000 are identified symbolically as God's Israel at the end of time.

Revelation 7:4 (See note above.)

Characteristic #3: The 144,000 have found refuge in God's sanctuary.

Revelation 14:1, 3 They are before the throne. That places them in the Most Holy Place.

Key Point:

God's sanctuary in the heavenly Mount Zion has always been and will always be a place of refuge for God's people.

Psalms 27:3-5

*“Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple** For in the time of trouble **he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.**”*

Psalms 91:1,2

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Vital Truth: God's sanctuary is a fortress of flames.

Exodus 3:12

*“And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, **ye shall serve God upon this mountain.**”*

Exodus 19:18-20

*“And **mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.** And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and **the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.**”*

Exodus 20:18,19

*“And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, **and the mountain smoking:** and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”*

Deuteronomy 5:2-5

*“The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. **The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,** (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;).”*

Are we afraid to go into God's presence to talk to Him? We shouldn't be, if we are in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:18-24, 28, 29

*"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that **burned with fire**, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are **come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. ... Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.**"*

Revelation 14:4

*"These are they which **were not defiled with women**; for they are virgins. These are they which **follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth**. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the **firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**"*

Characteristic #4: The 144,000 have separated themselves from the corrupting influence of false churches.

Revelation 14:4: They are not defiled with women.

Key Point:

In Bible Prophecy the symbol of a woman represents a church.

1. In Revelation 12, a pure woman represents the true church (*verses 1,2*).
2. In Revelation 17, the harlot represents the false church named Babylon (*verses 3-5*).
3. According to Revelation 17:5, the mother church identified as Babylon has daughters who are also harlots.

Those that have gotten the victory, over the beast and his image, have not committed "*spiritual adultery*." Their commitment to follow Jesus, the Lamb, wherever He goes, has brought them out of "*spiritual harlotry*" (false churches and doctrine). Remember, as we learned in our study of the remnant (Rev. 12) that the "*scarlet harlot*" represents an impure, apostate church. This "*harlot*" has daughter churches that came out of her, but also follow her in apostasy, following in mothers' teachings.

Key Point:

Often in the Bible, when God's people leave the purity of their first love as they disregard His commandments, they are spoken of as committing adultery with the world.

Ezekiel 23:30

*"I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast **gone a whoring after the heathen**, and because thou art polluted with their idols."*

Characteristic #5: The 144,000 are first fruits to God.

Revelation 14:4 (See above.)

Key Point:

The first fruits represented that part of the harvest which was brought into the sanctuary.

Exodus 23:19

“The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God.”

James 1:18

“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

Revelation 14:5, 6

“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,”

Characteristic #6: The 144,000 represent God's faithful and obedient people from the entire human race at the end of time.

Revelation 14:4,6

“These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men...the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people”

Galatians 3:26, 29

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus...And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Key Point:

The word used for “*men*” in Revelation 14:4 is “*anthropos*.” It literally means “*mankind*” in reference to the entire human race as a distinct species.

Dictionary of New Testament Theology Vol. 2, pages 564-569.

Characteristic #7: The 144,000 are a Christ-centered people.

Revelation 14:4, 5

*They “follow the Lamb... And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are **without fault** before the throne of God.”*

How can we be faultless before God? It starts with surrendering our will to the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in His promise that, “*If we confess our sins,*” He will not only forgive us, but will “*cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” We now stand faultless before the throne of God. The way we stay that way is for us to allow Jesus and His Word to abide in us and we abide in Him. Because total surrender, brings total obedience.

Jude 1:20-21, 24

*“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy **faith**, praying in the Holy Ghost, **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus***

Christ unto eternal life...Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”

Characteristic #8: The 144,000 are committed to biblical truth within their inner being.

Revelation 14:5 No lie is in their mouth. (See above.)

John 7:17

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

John 17:17

*“Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**”*

PULLING REVELATION 14:1-5 TOGETHER:

- 1. Revelation 14 pictures the 144,000 fleeing into the sanctuary from the beast power.**
- 2. Before the throne in the Most Holy Place, God's people are protected from the beast power by the flames of God's glory.**
- 3. God's people are standing as a new Israel on Mount Zion with a new Moses-Jesus Christ.**

Key Point:

The very fire that protects God's people destroys the beast and his followers.

Revelation 14:9-11

*“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”***

Isaiah 33:14-17

*“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see **the king in his beauty**: they shall behold the land that is very far off.”***

The Three Angels' Messages:

Revelation 14:6-12

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue,

and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

In the context of the mark of the beast drama of Revelation 13 and 14, the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12 constitute God’s last plea for repentance to a rebellious world. Flying in mid-heaven, **three angels are pictured calling the world back to faith and obedience.**

Revelation 14:6,7

*“And I saw **another angel** fly in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel to preach** unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**”*

The First Angel's Message

The first angel calls us back to loving obedience to all His Ten Commandments, including the fourth, that calls for mankind to return to the worship of the Creator God on the memorial of creation-the Seventh Day Sabbath. The message also warns us that we are living in the hour of God’s judgment which began in the year 1844.

"Fear God" means to love God and obey Him.

Deuteronomy 10:12,13

*“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to **fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?**”*

In Revelation 14:7, God quotes the one commandment most Christians have forgotten. The forgotten commandment is the fourth regarding the seventh day Sabbath.

“Worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

Exodus 20:8-11

*“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days **the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**”*

Both verses also draw our attention to the creatorship of God, thus drawing us by word picture back to the Genesis account of creation (Genesis 1-2).

Revelation 14:8

*“And there followed **another angel**, saying, **Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**”*

The Second Angel's Message

The second angel announces the call to forsake the end-time religious system identified as Babylon. God's people are called to **“Come out of her.”**

Revelation 18:1-4

*“And after these things I saw **another angel** come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”***

The message of the fall of Babylon, given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since the heavenly judgment began in 1844. The work of this angel comes at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry.

The Third Angel's Message

Revelation 14:9-11

*“And the **third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**”*

The third angel presents the most solemn warning in Scripture. It calls men to reject false worship and the mark of the beast, therefore, remaining faithful to God even in the face of death. (Refer back to the study of Revelation 13 on the mark of the beast for more discussion of verses 9-11)

Revelation 14:12-13

*“**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.** And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, **Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**”*

Here the two groups of faithful saints are identified. The 144,000, the living saints when Christ comes, are identified as those that **“keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”** In

verse 13, the second group, the great multitude, that represents God's faithful saints of all times that have died, waiting the resurrection is pictured.

Revelation 14:14-16

*“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto **the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.**”*

Here we have a prophetic picture of the return of Jesus Christ to “bring in the harvest” of His people. We see a picture of Christ gathering His people unto Him out of the world. (**Notice that this is the very NEXT PROPHETIC OCCURRENCE recorded following the end of the third angel's message.**)

Revelation 14:17-20

*“And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. **And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**”*

These verses refer to Revelation 14:10. They refer to the symbolism of “**drinking the wine of the wrath of God**” which gives us a further symbolic picture of the “*time of trouble such as never was*” (Daniel 12:1). The wrath of God is poured out on the wicked in the form of the seven last plagues, which will be the focus of our next study.

Summary:

Revelation 14 presents a picture for us of the characteristics of those that are victorious in Christ, those who have “**the name of the Father written in their foreheads.**” They are victorious over the mark of the beast as they stand in the heavenly sanctuary (God's “fortress of flames”) in the flames of the glory of God and of the Lamb. This chapter presents the **THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES** to us, warning the end-time church to return to obedience and faithfulness. Finally, it presents a symbolic picture of the return of Christ to claim His own people out of a world condemned to a fiery judgment. “**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**”

Are you willing to be faithful to God, keeping all His commandments and standing firm for Him even when it is not popular? God is willing to help us through the trials in the last days, if we will choose Him as our Lord and Savior.