

I. The Voice of the 144,000 (14:1-5)

- a. The Lamb (Christ) stands with the 144,000 on Mount Zion (Heavenly Zion).
- b. The 144,000 are singing about their experiences of enduring, they have a new song
- c. They were sealed (authenticated; designate ownership of). (Revelation 7:2-8)
 1. Contrast with the mark (seal) of the beast (13:16-17, *counterfeit salvation*).
 2. The significance seal/mark: identification expresses allegiance. (Rev. 2:17) (Matthew 10:32-33)
 3. The seal is a symbol of genuine membership in the community of the redeemed (purchased).
- d. The 144,000 were undefiled (virgins, not married, not liars and pure in God's eye).
 1. *Undefiled* example: a priest, during time of service, would refrain from activities that would distract them from their mission.
 2. *Virgin* – the Bride of Christ is to be presented to Christ as a virgin, without spot or blemish.
 3. *Not liars* – they did not worship the beast.
- e. They follow the Lamb; they were the redeemed the *first fruits* (the very finest; expected harvest). giving of the first fruits signify that God is the owner of the whole (1 Cor 15:20-23).
- f. Today, although believers are not physically part of the 144,000, we have also been redeemed *out of the earth*. *They sing a new song*, we will also sing a new song (seed time and harvest).

II. The Angelic Voices (14:6-20)

- a. 1st Angel – The angel proclaims the "eternal Gospel" (grace and **judgment**). (Romans 1:16-23) "fear God and give Him glory" All creation bears witness that God is the Creator
 1. This angelic warning will influence others to believe and to remain faithful.
- b. 2nd Angel – "Babylon is fallen" [*proleptic* words that anticipate events] (Rev. 16:18-19)
- c. Babylon is a name for the world system of *the beast* (economic system and political organization).
- d. 3rd Angel – Proclaims a personal warning directed to those who are deciding whether to follow *the beast*. *If you get the mark this is will be your punishment*. (vv.10-11)
 1. Going along with the world means going away from God.
 2. The Greek text reads *If any man continues to worship the beast*, suggesting there is still an opportunity for repentance and salvation. (Rev. 16:9b, 11b)
 3. However, once the mark of the beast is received there will be no turning back. No repentance.

III. Harvest Time (vv.14-20)

- a. God has determined the time to judge the sins of humanity.
- b. This is a vision of judgment. The *judge* is Christ coming on a cloud. (Matt. 24:27-51)
- c. The *crown* identifies Christ as King over all people.
- d. The *sharp sickle* is a metaphor of His judgment (planned, purposeful, quick, and decisive).
- e. Three angels accompany Christ (grain harvest vs. grape harvest; put in your sickle and gather).
- f. The *grapes* – God allows the seeds of iniquity to grow until they are ripe, then He judges
- g. Sinners will be crushed like overripe grapes. The grapes will be trampled on as in a winepress (Isaiah 63:1-6, refers the righteous wrath of God).
- h. A river of blood (blood of grapes) four feet deep and 180-200 miles long (1,600 stadia).

IV. What Shall We Say About These Things?

- a. God's love is characterized by mercy and judgment. He *will* achieve ultimate victory.
- b. We have a responsibility to harvest now. (Matthew 9:35-38)(1 Cor 3:5-9)