

REVELATION 14

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 14 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen over the last few chapters here in Revelation, John is filling in some of the details of what will be taking place during the Tribulation Period, besides God's judgments being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

In fact, we will not get to the bowl judgments until Revelation chapter 16. Keep in mind that Revelation chapter 15 is kind of a prelude to those judgments.

What I also want you to keep in mind as we go through this chapter is that John is giving to us a broad view of what will be taking place during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation Period or what is known as the Great Tribulation.

Before we get to our text this evening, let me outline this chapter for you so you will have a better perspective of what we will be looking at tonight.

Revelation 14:1-5: This section deals with the 144,000 Jewish believers that were sealed by God back in Revelation chapter 7.

Revelation 14:6-7: Here we see an angel proclaiming the everlasting Gospel to all the inhabitants of the earth, giving everyone a chance to hear and obey, to come to the Lord.

Revelation 14:8: Here we see another angel proclaiming the destruction of both religious and commercial Babylon.

Revelation 14:9-11: This section deals with another angel proclaiming the eternal doom for all those who reject the true and living God and worship the beast or the Antichrist, for those who receive his mark, the mark of the beast!

Revelation 14:12-13: Here we see the blessings given to those dear saints of God, the Tribulation saints who were martyred for their faith.

Revelation 14:14-20: Now we come to the final judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world and John gives to us two illustrations of what this judgment will be like.

We will see that in **Revelation 14:14-16** John uses the illustration of a harvest and relates this to God's judgment.

And in **Revelation 14:17-20** the judgment is seen as a winepress as the grapes are crushed.

But make no mistake about it; these two illustrations are making the same point. The judgment of God will be severe, and it will be complete!

Now Revelation chapter 14 is kind of refreshing, especially when we have just finished up looking at Revelation chapter 13.

Remember what we saw in that chapter. There was Satan or the dragon. We saw the Antichrist. We saw the False prophet.

And it is out of all this wickedness that we saw a worldwide deception as people came to receive the Mark of the Beast and worship the Antichrist and ultimately Satan! Not much light in that chapter, it is very dark!

But Revelation chapter 14 is a light in the midst of that darkness. And I do realize that some are confused by all of this because it seems to be saying that these events have taken place already.

Understand that in the Greek, when something is spoken of in the past tense and yet it has not taken place yet, it is speaking of the certainty of these events happening.

Let me give you an example.

Paul wrote in Romans 8:30, **“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”**

Now the first three, predestined, called and justified are completed once we come to saving faith and thus, they can be a past event.

But what about our glorification, Paul speaks of it as a past event, but have we been taken up to glory yet?

No, we have not. Then why in the world is it spoken of as a past event?

Because if you have been predestined, if you have been called, if you have been justified, it is a done deal, you will be glorified, not maybe! It is a certainty and that is why it is spoken as a past event!

Let me put this into perspective for you in the days we are living in. I know that some Christians are overwhelmed by all that deception, all the wickedness, all the corruption, all the immorality and the like, that is going on in this world. Think of it like Revelation chapter 13.

But it does not end there, we do come to Revelation chapter 14, and we see that all this wickedness will be judge, God will give a final warning, and then He will return and set up His Kingdom on this earth where righteousness will fill this land.

In the midst of the darkness is coming the Light of the World!

So here we are, Revelation chapter 14, which is a preview of the coming attractions.

What is coming? The events spoken of in Revelation chapters 15-19!

With that as our background for our study tonight, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 14, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

REVELATION 14**VERSE 1**

First of all, who are these 144,000 standing on Mount Zion with Jesus?

If you remember from our previous studies, these are those that were sealed by God back in Revelation chapter 7.

We see 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel or 144,000 Jewish witnesses for Christ.

We see this in Revelation 7:4 where we are told, **“And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.”**

These 144,000 do not represent the Church or even Tribulation Saints, but Jewish believers that are sealed by God for protection and identification with Him.

Now, the big question is, where is this Mount Zion that John is speaking of here in Revelation 14:1?

Some feel that this is speaking of the literal Mount Zion in Jerusalem, the mountains that make up Jerusalem. I did think that way at one time.

And what some believe is that the picture here speaks of the end of the Tribulation Period, when the Lord returns to set-up His Kingdom on this earth and specifically Jerusalem, these 144,000 Jewish witnesses will be with Him as they made it through the Tribulation Period.

One writer sees it like this. He wrote,

These 144,000 were last seen in Revelation 7, where they were identified as a group of Jewish believers who minister during the great tribulation and are given a seal of protection throughout that period. Since they stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb, it shows that they emerge victorious from the great tribulation. The beast of Revelation 13 certainly has not defeated the 144,000; here they are triumphant, worshipping, and standing firm with Jesus.

- David Guzik, Revelation 14:1

As I read through this, I tend to lean on the fact that this is not the Mount Zion in Jerusalem, but it is speaking of the heavenly Mount Zion.

Let me show you what I mean. Paul tells us in Galatians 4:26, “**but the Jerusalem above is free . . .**” The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**But the Jerusalem above (the Messianic kingdom of Christ) is free . . .**”

Also, in Hebrews 12:22 we are told, “**But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.**”

Keep in mind that Jesus has not returned yet, He is in heaven and thus, this meeting with Him and 144,000 Jewish witnesses occurs in heaven, the heavenly Mount Zion!

Now here is the problem for some with this being the heavenly Mount Zion. If these saints are in heaven, then they were martyred for their faith. And yet, what were we told back in Revelation 7:1-3, **“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’”**

Thus, many argue that since God has sealed them, how can they be martyred? They can't and thus, they feel this must be Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

First of all, what is this sealing doing?

It is protecting them from the judgment of God that is going to be poured out in the Trumpet Judgments.

But it does not say that God is going to protect them from the wrath of the Antichrist.

Thus, I believe that sometime in the last half of the Tribulation Period the Antichrist will martyr these 144,000 Jewish witnesses and they will gather on Mount Zion in Heaven with the Lord.

Remember what it says of the Antichrist in Revelation 13:7, **“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”**

Yes, they were protected from the judgment of God, but not from the wrath of the Antichrist!

And, like the two witnesses we read about in Revelation chapter 11, no one was able to harm them until the work was completed, and I think that is what we see here. Their work was done, and they went home to be with the Lord, and we will see them praising the Lord in heaven!

Now if you feel that this is speaking of Mount Zion in Jerusalem, that is fine, it is not a foundational issue. I am just sharing with you what I think this is saying. And I will deal with this a little bit more as we read on.

Now let me bring this out as well. In most of your Bibles you have the last part of this verse translated, “. . . having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.”

That is not really a correct translation.

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, “**THEN I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had His name and His Father’s name inscribed on their foreheads.**”

I think that is the correct translation of that verse and it is not only seen in The Amplified Bible, but we also see it in the Revised Standard Version, the New Living Translation.

And I think that just makes sense. You see, they have the name of their Lord, Jesus Christ and the name of God the Father on their foreheads!

Now let’s look at the contrast here from what we see with these saints of God and what we see with those who are worshiping the Antichrist in Revelation chapter 13.

Listen to what we are told in Revelation 13:16-17, “**He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**”

Here in Revelation chapter 13 we see people take the mark of the beast which leads to death and destruction where here in Revelation chapter 14 we see this mark of God that leads to life, abundant life!

And listen to what they are doing in heaven before the Lord.

VERSES 2-3

First of all, we are told of this **“voice from heaven”** and notice the sound of this voice from heaven – **“like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder.”**

Where is this voice speaking from?

We are told that this voice is from heaven!

And as you hear the sound of this voice, it should remind us of what is spoken of in Revelation 1:15, **“. . . His voice as the sound of many waters . . .”** And in Revelation 4:5 we are told, **“. . . And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. . . .”**

In other words, this is the voice of God that is speaking as He is seated upon His throne! I think that is clear and we are in agreement with that.

What is the Lord saying to them?

We don't know for sure, but more than likely it is something to the effect of what we read of in Matthew 25:21, **“*Well done, good and faithful servant!*”**

Now, if you think these events take place on earth, this seems to contradict that because it seems here that these saints are singing to the Lord in heaven, before His throne!

One writer, who thinks that the song being sung is not the 144,000 singing it, wrote this,

First, they learn a new song which they hear from heaven. Remember, heaven is not way off somewhere, it is just beyond the realm of visibility.

They hear a great group singing the song of the redeemed. We are not told precisely who it is that sings, but you will notice they are identified with a pronoun.

Verse 3 says, “And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.” Who are “they”?

It is apparently a huge group. They make a sound like the “roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder.” But it was a sweet sound – “like that of harpists playing their harps.”

Surely, what the 144,000 hear is the church as it is “with the Lord,” singing his praises and singing the song of the redeemed!

These 144,000 are living men, still on earth, not yet glorified or transfigured, but following the Lord as he appears to them from time to time as we see him here now on Mount Zion.

In other words, they are men who march to a different drum beat.

It was Henry David Thoreau who said, “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.”

Here is a group of committed men who listen to different drum beat; they follow the music of heaven! They can learn the song of the redeemed because they know themselves what redemption means. They, too, have been redeemed.

- <https://bit.ly/3kIsw9t>

I disagree and I will show you why.

Look at the last part of Revelation 14:3, where it says who is singing this song, who has learned this song. We are told, “**. . . no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.**”

And where are they singing this song?

In heaven, before the throne. It says, “**And they sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and before the elders . . .**” Revelation 14:3.

The elders are not singing this song, they are listening to it.

And if you are still not sure, let me put this to rest.

Again, here in Revelation 14:3, when it speaks of them being “**redeemed from the earth**” the Greek word for “**from**” is APO.

“Apó indicates the separation of a person or an object from another person or an object with which it was formerly united but is now separated. (See Luke 16:18 which speaks of a separation as when a husband and wife are separated in divorce)”

And the point is this. These 144,000 Jewish witnesses were on the earth at one time with everyone else. But now they have been separated from them, they were martyred for their faith, and thus, they are standing on heavenly Mount Zion!

Again, just because we are serving the Lord, just because He has His seal upon us, according to Ephesians 1:13, it doesn't mean that we will not be persecuted and some will be martyred for their faith as the two witnesses will be, and as these 144,000 will be.

To set us up for what we are going to look at next, let me say this. There are those today, I have talked with them, who believe that they are part of this 144,000. And it makes me laugh because I look at them, at their lives, and I think, “***Sorry Charlie, you missed the boat on that one!***”

How can I be so sure?

Let's read on and you will see.

VERSES 4-5

Regarding these 144,000 Jewish witnesses, John gives us five characteristics of these Jewish believers.

He starts out by saying, “**These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.**”

This can speak of a few different things, and I believe they all are a factor with these men.

It can speak in a spiritual sense that they did not commit spiritual adultery.

Paul said in II Corinthians 11:2, “**For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**”

In other words, they only worshiped the Lord! Remember that the world will be worshipping the Antichrist and yet, these men will not, they worship the Lord Jesus Christ!

Also, during this period of time it would be very difficult to be married, so they could be virgins, literally speaking.

Paul said in I Corinthians 7:25-26, “**Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy. I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress - that it is good for a man to remain as he is.**”

So I believe that they are virgins, literally speaking. And I again find it funny because those who claim to be part of this group of people, many are married and have children, they are not virgins!

So I see this as a spiritual picture as well as I literal picture, I believe both apply to these 144,000.

Secondly, John tells us that, “**These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.**”

You see, they know their Shepherd and they will follow after Him alone.

Jesus said in John 10:27, “**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**”

They are not going to be fooled by the lies of the false prophet or the Antichrist, and for that matter, anyone who does not speak the truths of God found in the Word of God. They will follow after Jesus!

The third characteristic is that “**These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.**”

In other words, these saints from the Tribulation Period are only the firstfruits of a bigger harvest that is coming, as many souls are saved during the Tribulation Period.

That is why I believe they get saved early on in the Tribulation Period from the sharing of the Gospel by the two witnesses!

And here is something that we need to remember. Not only will all of Israel be saved as Paul tells us in Romans 11:25-27, but also many Gentiles will be saved.

In Revelation 7:9 we are told, “**After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.**”

Who are these people?

We don't have to guess for in Revelation 7:14 we are told, **“... ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”**

The fourth characteristic of these saints is that **“in their mouth was found no deceit.”**

You see, they will speak the truth in a world that is filled with lies! There is no falsehood that will flow from their mouths.

It is as John said in III John 1:3, **“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.”**

We as Christians should speak the truth, that is what should come flowing from our lips, for lies are of the Devil, as Jesus said in John 8:44.

And the fifth characteristic is that **“... they are without fault before the throne of God.”**

The word **“fault”** comes from the Greek word AMOMOS and it relates to a sacrificial animal that was without defect, it had no spot or blemish, it was perfect.

Folks, this can only be accomplished through Christ and His righteousness being imputed into our lives by faith in Him.

It is as Peter tells us in I Peter 1:18-21, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Also, Zephaniah 3:13 says this regarding this remnant of Israel, **“The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid.”**

Now as we read on here in Revelation 14:6-7 we will move from the 144,000 in the heavenly Mount Zion with Jesus to this angel who is proclaiming the everlasting Gospel.

VERSES 6-7

Now as people read of all this judgment being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, some only focus on that, and they miss God’s love. You see, in the midst of God’s righteous judgment we see His love for sinful man.

Here we see this angel in the **“midst of heaven”** or MESOURANEMA, (mes-oo-ran-ay-mah) in the Greek and it speaks of a place where he can be seen, in the sky above, not the throne of God.

Now there are those who see this angel as a satellite that is proclaiming the Gospel message or radio or television all over the world. That is not what the text is saying.

It says that this was **“another angel”** or similar to those we have been reading about.

And what is this angle doing?

This angel proclaims the **“everlasting gospel.”**

Folks, the message of salvation does not change as some would like to say – it is everlasting, it is perpetual and as Peter said, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** Acts 4:12.

Thus, in the midst of these bad times comes the Good News of Jesus Christ, but to who?

John tells us that it is, “**. . . to those who dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.**”

You see, it is for all and when John speaks of “**those who dwell on the earth**” he is speaking of those that are not saved, unbelievers!

But why does God do this?

Jesus tells us, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**” John 3:16-17.

You see, Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world and He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah judging sinful man and establishing His Kingdom on this earth.

And so, here is the Gospel message to all who will listen and believe! This angel is trying to awaken sinful man from their spiritual stupor and darkness, bringing them to the light of Christ, awaking them to the truth!

Again, some don't see it that way and as they read Matthew 24:14, which says, “**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**” they believe we must accomplish this before the Lord comes back.

Folks, I am not saying that we should not go out into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ, but that is not the basis for His return. I believe it is this angel that fulfills the words of Jesus spoken here in Matthew chapter 24!

And as hard as we try to bring the Gospel to every person on this planet, we will not succeed. We should keep trying, but it is this angel, during the Tribulation Period, that gives people one more chance to hear and turn to Jesus.

It is as one pastor wrote, *“By the time the angel begins his ministry, the world will have suffered the incredible devastation of the seal and trumpet judgments. Relentless holocausts will have rocked the globe, and the once stable heavens will have become a disintegrating source of terror (cf. 6:12–14).*

During this time, the unbelieving world will have heard the Gospel preached by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the two witnesses, as well as countless thousands of others saved under their ministries.

But despite all that, most of the earth’s population will reject the gospel (9:20–21; cf. 16:9, 11); thus, God graciously sends this powerful angel to proclaim the Gospel to them - one last time.”

Make no mistake about it, our God is gracious and merciful, it is man whose heart is hard, and we pray that their hearts would soften, and many would come to saving faith today and on into the Tribulation Period.

VERSE 8

Of this we are told, *“Prophetically, ‘Babylon’ sometimes refers to a literal city, sometimes to a religious system, sometimes to a political system, all stemming from the evil character of historic Babylon.”* (Walvoord)

And here again we see **“another angel”** and that tells me again that this is similar to the angel we read of in Revelation 14:6.

And as we can see, as this second angel comes on the scene, he is declaring that

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen.”

Why does he repeat himself?

Because it is so certain and it is so complete that the Lord wants us to understand this, He does not want us to miss this point.

What is this Babylon that is destroyed?

I believe that Babylon speaks of both a religious system and a commercial empire.

We will cover this more in detail when we get to Revelation chapters 17 and 18.

The point that John is making here is that her influence has lured the nations of the world into immorality.

The world will be seduced by her ways, and we can see that even today as people call good evil and evil good.

The reason they do that is because they enjoy sin and the light, the goodness that some manifests expose their evil ways and they would rather carry out their evil ways in the dark and thus, they try to extinguish the light or put it out!

And please understand that those who drink of the wine of her fornication, those who embrace her ways, are going to face the wrath of God!

Now, as we move into Revelation 14:9-11 we will see the eternal doom for those who reject the true and living God and worship the beast, for those who receive his mark!

VERSES 9-11

Here we see a third angel proclaiming judgment upon those that reject Jesus.

Now, what I want you to notice here is the progression as we see these three angels sound forth.

The first angel brings forth the everlasting Gospel to a world that needs good news.

But if people reject it there will be consequences. You see, the second angel pronounces judgment upon everything they have placed their lives upon, materially and spiritually speaking! They are left with nothing.

And ultimately, as the third angel sounds, there will be eternal damnation for all who reject Jesus and worship the beast.

Listen to how Walvoord describes this. He wrote, *“In describing the worshippers of the beast, the word worship as well as the word receive in verse 11 is in the present tense emphasizing continued worship of the beast over a long period of time . . . the same present tense is used in describing their torment. As the worship of the beast is not interrupted by repentance, so their torment is not interrupted when repentance is too late.”*

And folks, Hell is a real place, a holding area you might say until the final judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment as all those who have rejected Jesus will now be punished according to their works in the Lake of Fire, eternally separated from God in eternal darkness!

Folks, I do understand that some say when you die you cease to exist, but that is not what the Bible teaches. There is torment, suffering, pain for eternity!

Jesus tells us in John 3:19, **“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”**

Here we see these angels give a last call for men to repent but God’s grace is ignored because they love darkness and thus, they will ultimately spend an eternity apart from God in outer darkness!

VERSES 12-13

Here we see these Tribulation Saints who are martyred for their faith in Jesus.

Now some see this as tragic, but not so. You see, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

These dear saints can now rest from their labors.

It as Clarke wrote, *“These are the only glorious dead . . . they die in the cause of God, they die under the smile and approbation [approval] of God. And they die to live and reign with God forever and ever.”*

I like the way that Paul encourages us in Hebrews 6:9-12 as he says, **“But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”**

In other words, there is coming a day for rest for us, but until then we need to forge ahead in the work that God has called us to do.

And as we see all that is happening in this country, in this world, it is easy to give up, to throw in the towel you might say.

No, it is not time for that. It is time to forge ahead in the work of God no matter how difficult it may be.

Ray Stedman put it like this,

When the earth is filled with violence and widespread hate, the work of the saints of that day is to wait. "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints," a determination not to yield at any point or to give way to the glorification of man in that day.

- bit.ly/3kIsw9t

I like that, keep your eyes on Jesus, don't give up, don't yield, but move forward!

Now, in Revelation 14:14-20 we come to the final judgment of God coming upon a Christ rejecting world.

VERSES 14-16

Here we see a picture of Christ sitting on a cloud preparing to complete His judgment.

The interesting thing here is that He is not wearing a crown of a King but a **STEPHANOS** or victors crown, why?

I believe it is showing us that He is victorious and will not only fully redeem man, but this earth back to Himself.

Paul points to this in Romans 8:18-23, **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

That day is coming where the lion will lie down with the lamb and righteousness will fill this land!

In this harvest judgment, John uses the Greek word XERAINO, (xay-rah'-ee'no) for **“ripe”** and it speaks of being overripe, to the point of being rotten or withered.

People speak of God being unfair, unloving, and that is untrue.

You see, God will judge this earth only when it is overripe for judgment - when the iniquity of man has reached as far as it can go, then God will judge.

That tells me our God is a God of love and He is longsuffering and patient but there is coming a day when He will pour out His wrath, thrust in His sickle because the harvest, the grain is spoiled, and it must be put away!

VERSES 17-20

In this illustration of God's judgment, we see the picture of a vine, full of grapes, which are fully ripe and ready to be harvested.

In verse 15 the fruit was “**ripe**” and that spoke of it being over ripe or rotten.

But here it speaks of being fully ripe, ready to be harvested.

Thus, as these grapes are trampled upon, their juices will be overflowing.

It is as Seiss tells us, “*What strength have grapes against the weight and power of a man when he comes to set his feet upon them? And the riper they are, the more helpless . . . The heel of Omnipotence is upon them, and they can only break and sink beneath it.*”

How many of you remember the song – *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*?

Did you know that this picture given to us here in Revelation chapter 14 was the inspiration for that song!

Here is how part of that song goes,

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vineyard where the grapes of wrath are stored,
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on!*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.*

- Battle Hymn of the Republic

We see this played out for us in Isaiah chapter 63 as God’s wrath is poured out, and it is severe, and it is complete!

We are told beginning in verse 1 of Isaiah 63, **“Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? - ‘I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.’ Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ‘I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.’”** Isaiah 63:1-6.

And as you can see from Isaiah and here in Revelation chapter 14, the wrath of God is likened to a winepress.

In those days men would go into the winepress barefooted to tread out the grapes. The winepress was usually a shallow pit with a hole on the side leading to a container. As they would stomp on these grapes with their feet the juice would flow through the hole into the container.

And many times, what would happen, is that this red juice would splatter out of the ripe grapes and would splash upon their garments and stain them.

Keep in mind that Edom and Bozrah were geographical locations southeast of Jerusalem, and I believe the Lord will come to this area from the valley of Megiddo after this great battle. But we must also remember that Edom symbolically represented the flesh, and thus in these verses we also see the judgment of man.

Now when you read this it is a far different picture than most people have of God. His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world is intense. And remember that Jesus spoke more about Hell than anyone else. He wanted people to know of what will happen to those who reject the way to God that is only found through Him.

Now some may try and argue that they will not worship Satan now or at any other time in their life.

The problem with that kind of thinking is that it is totally wrong.

You see, Jesus said, “**He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.**” Matthew 12:30.

In other words, if you are not for Christ then you have sided with the Devil, for there are only two sides to choose from.

You cannot remain neutral in this matter for your active rebellion against Christ leaves you with only one master, like it or not, and that is **SATAN!**

And thus, you will be judged for your rebellion.

And what we see here is this last great battle, where the nations of the world will gather together and fight against Christ and His army, and it is located in the valley of Megiddo.

It is here that we see the fierceness of His judgment as blood flows for some 184 miles flowing some 4 to 5 feet high or splashing up 4 to 5 feet high.

You see, blood spilled like grapes being trampled upon in a winepress will splash up, and I think that is the point here. I don't believe it is a river of blood flowing 4 to 5 feet deep for almost 200 miles!

So what we are seeing is that from Bozrah, in Edom, northward this blood will flow to Megiddo at the foot of Mount Carmel - this is the battle of **ARMAGEDDON!**

The interesting thing is that God will spare Jerusalem, the city itself, from this blood bath, the place He will establish His Kingdom!

It is hard to imagine this kind of carnage and for blood to be flowing or splashing some 4 to 5 feet high for some 184 miles but listen to what one historian has to say regarding another devastating slaughter against the Jewish people.

Josephus, in recounting the massive destruction and bloodshed that occurred when Titus and the Roman army swept across Jerusalem, wrote this.

He said that the Roman soldiers *“Obstructed the very lanes with dead soldiers; and made the whole city run down with blood, to such a degree indeed that the fires of many of the houses was quenched with these men’s blood.”* (Wars:6, 8).

This next battle will be even more intense, more destructive!

We also see that the prophet Joel recaps this part of human history in great detail for us.

He tells us in Joel chapter 3, beginning in verse 1, **“For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. . . . Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, “I am strong.”’ Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of**

Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow - For their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.” Joel 3:1-3, 9-17.

It is when wickedness has reached the saturation point and begins to overflow that the harvest will begin.

Also, listen to what the Lord said in Isaiah regarding this period of time. He said in Isaiah 13:11-13, **“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the Lord of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.”**

And interesting enough, it begins with war, a war against God. But it is the Lord who will judge those people in the Valley of Jehoshaphat or the Valley of Megiddo.

Let’s look at this picture once again. Back in Revelation chapter 13 things were not looking good.

We saw that the Antichrist or this beast rise out of the sea of humanity or the Gentile nations.

We saw the false prophet, this beast rising out of the earth, and he causes the earth dwellers to worship the beast, the Antichrist.

And we are told in Revelation 13:4 the response of the people of this world during this time, **“So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’”**

You see, it is not looking too good at this point!

But now, as we saw here tonight in Revelation chapter 14, God wins!

Jesus is triumphant, and God’s people are victorious! May we not lose perspective of these things no matter how dark things may look! We know the end of the story and it is glorious!

I guess we can say that Revelation chapter 14 is the perfect answer to what we see in Revelation chapter 13. Our Lord reigns!

I would like to close this evening with these thoughts from a pastor who wrote,

And now I begin to understand, to see I have two options: I will either drown in the horrific bloodbath of Armageddon, or I will bathe in the gracious Blood of the Lamb. Truly, the greatest bloodshed in all of history took place not in a world war, but when Jesus died on the Cross in order to wash us in His blood.

- Jon Courson, Revelation 14

Who are you going to serve?

Joshua said to the nation of Israel before he died, “**And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**” Joshua 24:15.

How about you?

Who are you going to serve?

God gets no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and thus, His plea to you is to turn, please turn to Him because the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world is coming back as the Lion from the tribe of Judah in judgment!