

Revelation 14

In chapter 14, we are working toward the end of the Millennium, nearing Christ's return to earth. The chapter is divided into three parts. First, we see Jesus standing on Mt. Zion in heaven with the 144,000. Remember, this is a symbolic number, meaning the totality of those redeemed. For clarity, verse four's mention of women, defilement, and virgins most likely refers to temple prostitution and illicit sexual activity, which were part of pagan rituals. The word virgin should be translated as celibate. Revelation must be viewed through the lens of allegory and metaphor, very little of it should be read literally.

Read Revelation 14:1-5

1. With what are the redeemed "marked?"
2. Compare the mark of the beast to the mark of the redeemed.
3. What is special about their song? Why do you think the non-redeemed cannot learn the song?
4. What are 144,000's characteristics listed in vv. 4-5?

"These are they which follow the Lamb -

These were redeemed from among [mankind] - This is another characteristic of those who are seen on Mount Zion. They are there because they are redeemed, and they have the character of the redeemed. They are not there in virtue of rank or blood, not on the ground of their own works, but because they are redeemed unto God by the blood of his Son. None will be there of whom it cannot be said that they are 'Redeemed'; none will be absent who have been truly redeemed from sin.

"Being the first-fruits unto God - On the meaning of the word "first-fruits," the meaning here would seem to be that the hundred and forty-four thousand were not to be regarded as the whole of the number that was saved, but that they were representatives of the redeemed. They had the same characteristics that all the redeemed must have; they were a pledge that all the redeemed would be there. [...] The sense is that they were, as it were, 'an offering especially acceptable to God.' "

- Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes [1834].

Revelation 14

JUDGMENT IS COMING, BUT GOD CONTINUES TO ALLOW FOR REPENTANCE. THOSE WHO WORSHIP SATAN WILL SUFFER ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES. JESUS DOES THE REAPING. THIS SECOND SECTION OF CHAPTER 14 TAKES PLACE IN “MIDHEAVEN” – BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Read Revelation 14:6-13

1. What three messages are proclaimed in verses 6-7, 8, & 9-11?
2. Who are the recipients of the proclamation?
3. What do you recall about Babylon from this book? (upcoming visions will reveal details of Babylon's dramatic fall, chapters 17-18)
4. What might be the importance of judgments carried out in the presence of holy angels and the Lamb?
5. What warning is the church offered? And what is the good news for the church?
6. Line out these verses in the context of preaching the Gospel – three proclamations, warning, and exhortation.
7. What connection do you make concerning “rest” in vs. 11 & 13?

NOW IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. THE FINAL “THREE TIMES SEVEN” JUDGMENTS WILL BE REVEALED AS THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH'S SOULS REACHES FULL RIPENESS. ANOTHER NUMEROLOGY REFERENCE IS PROVIDED IN THE CONCLUDING WORDS OF CHAPTER 14. “1600 STADIA” IS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES, BUT 1600 IS THE SQUARE OF 40. IN HEBREW CULTURE, THE NUMBER 40 SIGNIFIES CHANGE, RENEWAL, AND TESTING TRIAL.

Read Revelation 14:14-20

1. What does a cloud represent in Revelation?
2. Who is the “One like the Son of Man” who personally does the reaping?
3. What are other references to 40 found in the Old and New Testaments?