

Revelation 14

- Vision of Lamb standing on Mount Zion with the redeemed.
- John assures believers that the ultimate victory belongs to the Lamb - 144,000: symbolic of all believers of all time.
- Etched on their foreheads is the name of the Lamb.
- Virgins: those who kept themselves pure.
- First fruits: people to bring portion of the early harvest to the temple as an act of thanksgiving for the full harvest to follow (Lev 19:23–25, 23:9–21; Dt 26:1–11): metaphor for those belonging solely to the Lord.
- In New Testament, believers also referred to as first fruits.

First announcement — Eternal Gospel (Vv. 6–7)

3 commands:

#1 — “Fear God” — a holy fear that recognizes the sovereign authority and power of God to deal with humankind.

#2 — “Give Him glory” — praise and honour that is due His Name as the sovereign Creator of the universe.

#3 — “And worship Him who made ...” - to show reverence.

The angel is warning them to reject the beast and turn to worship God alone. Why?

Two reasons:

#1 — “The hour of his judgment has come”

#2 — God has revealed Himself through His Creation (Romans 1:21–23)

Second Announcement - Fall of Babylon (Vs. 8)

“Babylon” - Greek word derived from Hebrew *Babel* - which means confusion (cf. Genesis 11)

“Babylon” not necessarily a literal city but some political power, a religious, political, and commercial system of the world symbolised by the word “Babylon.”

“Wine” - that which intoxicates and disorients. Here that which intoxicates is the secret mysteries and false and idolatrous doctrines that Satan has used to turn nations away from God.

Third Announcement – Warning (Vv.9-11)

“Mixed” - Greek word for preparation of wine by addition of special spices or water. Wine mixed with water, diluted to reduce effect, or mixed with other ingredients to heighten its effect. God’s wrath will be unmixed – no portion of grace or mercy. His wrath compared to undiluted wine, fire, and sulphur.

Fourth voice - word of exhortation to the faithful, encouraging them to “hold fast to the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 13:9–10) – shows God’s personal care and interest in His own.

Beatitude, “Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord” (14:13) => other beatitudes : Rev 1:3, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, and 22:7, 14.

Harvesting and the Grapes of Wrath (14:14–20)

(a) The *Reapers*

Son of Man - points to Jesus Christ, emphasizes His humanity.

“Having a golden crown on His head.” – ‘gold’ a symbol of deity, of value, righteousness. “Crown” - victor’s crown - Christ is coming to conquer, having right to do so as victorious Savior.

Various angels who “came out of the temple”, in other words, the very presence of God.

“Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

(b) The *Reaping*

- o first harvesting - Son of Man – harvests the wheat on earth.
- o second harvesting – angel holds a sickle to harvest grapes, which are then thrown into a winepress and trampled.
- o In terms of the reaping, who is in view? Believers or unbelievers or both? (Matthew 13, Parable of tares)

(c) The *Reason* for the Reaping—because the earth is ripe, withered, or dry and grapes are fully ripe – i.e. wickedness.

(d) The *Results* of the Reaping

Deuteronomy 32:32-35

Vv. 19-20 – bloodiest battle the world has ever known.

First advent, Jesus came as meek and mild, giving His life for the ransom of many,

Second advent, very different Jesus, coming as a mighty conqueror in the full wrath of the Holy God of the universe.