

Study Notes – Revelation 14

The third Interlude – Part 3: Previews of Things to Come

✚ Preview One: The Redeeming Lamb and 144,000 redeemed

A Song for the 144,000

Rev 14:1 ¹Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads.

- ✚ The first time we read about the group of 144,000 Jewish evangelists was back in Chapter 7, when they were given their commission. Is this the same group of young men? Are they standing on earth or in Heaven?
- ✓ the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion – The name “Mount Zion” is seen only twice in the New Testament and both times, according to context, they refer to the New Jerusalem in Heaven.
 - ²² But you have come to Mount Zion—to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, a joyous gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are written in a scroll in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous ones made perfect, ²⁴ and to Yeshua, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks of something better than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:22-24
 - On the earth is the shadow of the true Mount Zion – in Heaven, which is the reality.
- ✓ with Him were 144,000 – There is no scriptural evidence saying that this is a different group of people from Chapter 7 – they are the same 144,000.
 - They receive a protective seal.
 - As this chapter opens, we get a preview of the end of the 7 years of God’s wrath.
 - These faithful young men have given their testimony and the “seal” kept them safe.
 - However, once their task was completed, it is very likely they were allowed to be killed. This is like the 2 witnesses. No one could harm them for 3.5 years, until the beast made war against them and they were killed. Rev 11:7
 - If this seems a cruel outcome – serve God, then die. Consider the extreme harshness of the conditions of the earth and the great joy of being in the presence of God!

14.2 ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and the booming of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like harpists playing on their harps.

- ✓ a voice – describes a multitude of Heavenly residents sounding together as one voice. Thunderous praise and worship in Heaven.

14.3 ³And they are singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one is able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

- ✓ a new song – The now Heaven dwelling evangelists sing a New Song that is exclusively theirs’, about their experiences on earth.
 - Wouldn’t you love to learn this new song? It is not for us, we will have our own stories and songs of praise to offer up to God.

14.4 ⁴These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been redeemed from among mankind as Firstfruits for God and the Lamb.

- ✓ from among mankind as Firstfruits for God and the Lamb – The 144,000 are pure, truthful and without fault before the Throne of God and the Lamb.
 - Firstfruits comes from the Old Testament. The firstfruits of the harvest belong to God. It was the first gleaning that was set aside before being presented to the Lord as an offering.
 - “First” means there is more to follow, of persons as the first of a set or category.
 - But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also has come through a Man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah will all be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

14.5 ⁵And in their mouth was found no lie - they are blameless.

- ✚ Now that the 144,000 are in Heaven praising God before the Throne, does that mean there is no more witnesses of Jesus on earth? God gives humanity another chance to repent and be saved, but the opportunity is coming to a close.

Three Angels with Messages

14.6 ⁶And then I saw another angel flying high in the sky, having a timeless message of good news to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.

- ✓ flying high in the sky – (mesouranemati): The highest point of the sun’s circuit in the sky zenith; directly overhead.
 - Everyone will see the angel and everyone will hear the salvation message proclaimed on earth; but with a warning that the window for acceptance is drawing to an end.
 - Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:11-14

14.7 ⁷He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the One who made heaven and earth and sea and springs of water."

- ✚ Note: This angels warning comes before the “mark” mandate is enforced. This angelic message will change some hearts to repent, but many will give their allegiance to satan.

✚ Preview Two: The Fall of Babylon

14.8 ⁸Another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great - she who made all nations drink of the wine of the fury of her immorality."

- ✓ Fallen, fallen – (epesen, epesen): prophetic aorist verbs. A prophetic message: it hasn’t happened but so certain to as have already occurred in the past. When John wrote this book Babylon was a viable city with a substantial Jewish community and 500 years after Yeshua’s ascension there was a significant Christian church.

14.8 ⁸ Another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great - she who made all nations drink of the wine of the fury of her immorality." (continued)

- ✓ Babylon the great – Chapters 17 & 18 go more in depth regarding who and what is Babylon. It is religious (spiritual) and Economic (physical).
 - Babylon has been a golden cup in ADONAI's hand, intoxicating the whole earth. The nations drunk her wine - so the nations are going crazy. ⁸ Suddenly Babylon is fallen! Jeremiah 51:7-8
 - The earliest mention of Babylon is in the land of Shinar and occurs shortly after Noah's flood.
 - Nimrod the Grandson of Ham – Noah's son. Gen 10:8-12
 - Now the entire earth had the same language with the same vocabulary. ² When they traveled eastward, they found a valley-plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to one another, "Come! Let's make bricks and bake them until they're hard." So they used bricks for stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land." ⁵ Then ADONAI came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of man had built. ⁶ ADONAI said, "Look, the people are one and all of them have the same language. So this is what they have begun to do. Now, nothing they plan to do will be impossible. ⁷ Come! Let Us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand each other's language." ⁸ So ADONAI scattered them from there over the face of the entire land, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ This is why it is named Babel, because ADONAI confused the languages of the entire world there, and from there ADONAI scattered them over the face of the entire world. Genesis 11:1-9
 - Nimrod established a kingdom at Babel; in a way he was the first king with subjects and a realm. He was proud, powerful, God rejecting ruler that built the Tower of Babel (Babylon) the site of the first organized system of idolatrous false religion.
 - This is the beginning of the "Harlot Babylon" Rev 17 & 18
 - The Tower of Babel was a ziggurat; designed to facilitate idolatrous worship. God judged this idolatry and rebellion by confusing their language forcing them to scatter over the world. Their false religion and ideology spread around the world.



- ✚ “Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny – seeing no other way of turning men from fear of God, but to bring them into constant dependence upon his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if He should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers!” *The Complete Works of Josephus, Flavius Josephus*
- ✚ History records that the city of Babylon “fell” numerous times at the hand of various invaders, but never had a complete destruction. Eventually through neglect it became insignificant.
 - So Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of Chaldean pride, will be just as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰ It will never be inhabited, nor will it be dwelt in from generation to generation, nor will an Arab pitch a tent there, nor will shepherds let flocks lie there. Isaiah 13:19-20
- ✚ Jeremiah 50 & 51 is a prophecy against Babylon.
- ✚ By about 200AD the site of the city was almost deserted until 1800’s when archeologists began exploring the site. In the mid 1960’s the Iraq Department of Antiquities carried out further at the site. The Ishtar gateway was partially restored and the Procession Way. The Ninmah temple was reconstructed, a museum and rest houses built on the site, which is partially covered by the village of Jumjummah and three other small Arab villages.
- ✚ The angel of verse 8 declares Babylon is a system based on a rebellion against God and a craving to fulfill one’s own desires, purely centered on fulfilling their own selfish longings. Our world today is this way – a very self-centered, self-engrossed society. It could be said that people are drunk with their need to fulfill their desires, a “me” based system that is going to come crashing down to the ground.
- ✚ Why is the word “fallen” repeated twice in Isa 21:9, Rev 14:8, 18:2?
 - By the word of two or three witnesses, the one who is to die is to be put to death. No one is to be put to death by the word of one witness. Deuteronomy 17:6
 - But if he does not listen, take with you one or two more, so that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may stand.’ Matthew 18:16

✚ Preview Three: The Marked and the Unmarked.

14:9-10^a ⁹And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he shall also drink the wine of God's fury, poured full strength into the cup of His wrath.

- ✓ This third angel speaks about the judgement of those who have worshipped the Beast and his image. They are the ones who received the “mark” on their foreheads or hand.
 - They have access to what food and medicines are available during this horrific time.
 - They cheer as they watch the “unmarked” starve & die.
 - It is these men & women who persecute those who refuse to get the mark, rejoicing as they watch their execution.
 - It is these “earth dwellers” that refused to help the “unmarked” Jew & Gentile. Their stony hearts will never repent of their evil ways and worshipping satan, the antichrist and his image.
 - These wicked followers of the beast who will experience the final bowls of 100% of God’s wrath & will still shake their fists at God, never repent and are destined for the Lake of Fire.
 - For **God is the Judge**: He lowers one and lifts up another. ⁹ For in the hand of ADONAI is a cup of foaming wine mixed with spices, and He pours it out. Surely all the wicked of the earth will drink, draining it down to the dregs. Psalms 75:8-9

- For thus says ADONAI, the God of Israel, to me: "Take this cup of the wine of fury from My hand and make all the nations to whom I am sending you drink it. ¹⁶ They will drink, and reel to and fro, and be like madmen, because of the sword that I will send among them. Jeremiah 25:15-16
- all the kings of the north, either far or close to another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. And the king of Sheshach (Babel, Babylon) will drink after them." Jeremiah 25:26

Rev 14:10^b-11 And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone before the holy angels and before the Lamb. ¹¹The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. Those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of his name have no rest day or night."

✓ Those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of his name:

- Name never written in the Book of Life
- Experience the second death. Rev 21:8
- Eternity in Lake of Fire and brimstone. Isa 66:24, Dan 12:2, Matt 3:12, 25:41, Mrk 9:44-46, 2 Thl 1:9, 2 Pet 2:17, Jude 1:13, Rev 19:20, 20:10, 15

✚ How could they deserve eternal damnation? Let's look to understand the calloused and hardened heart condition of the "earth dweller".

- Hardness of Heart: (sklerokardia) harden (porosis): a kind of stone, cover with callous, to make hard, petrify, thick skin.
 - But ADONAI said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have already refused him. For He does not see a man as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but ADONAI looks into the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7
 - Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, Proverbs 12:20^a
 - do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness. ⁹ There your fathers put Me to the test, though they saw My works for forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked by this generation, and I said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' ¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" Hebrews 3:8-11
 - My rest – (menuchah): **eternal rest.** Psa 95:7-11
 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and incurable—who can know it? ¹⁰ I ADONAI search the heart, I try the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - For to Moses **He says, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."** ¹⁶ So then it does not depend on the one who wills or the one who strives, but on God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up - to demonstrate My power in you, so My name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰ But who in the world are you, O man, who talks back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" ²¹ Does the potter have no right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honor and another for common use? ²² **Now what if God, willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath designed for destruction?** ²³ **And what if He did so to make known the riches of His glory on vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory?**

²⁴ **Even us He called—not only from the Jewish people, but also from the Gentiles**

Romans 9:15-24

- So He said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass before you, and call out the Name of ADONAI before you. I will be gracious toward whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will be merciful." Exodus 33:19
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8
- What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained; but the elect obtained it, and the rest were hardened Romans 11:7
- "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they might not see with their eyes nor understand with their hearts and turn back, and I would heal them." John 12:40
- **ADONAI works everything out for his own purpose - even the wicked for a day of disaster.** Proverbs 16:4
- Now the value is for you who keep trusting; but for those who do not trust, "The stone which the builders rejected - this One has become the chief cornerstone,"⁸ and "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. **"They stumble because they are disobeying the word - to this they were also appointed.**" 1 Peter 2:7-8

14.12-13 Here is the perseverance of the kedoshim—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Yeshua. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: How fortunate are the dead—those who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Ruach, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

- ✓ The Kedoshim accept God's sovereignty over their lives. They live in obedience, trust, good works, hope, moral conduct and faith in Yeshua. They never give up – even unto death.
 - Precious in the sight of ADONAI is the death of His kedoshim. Psalms 116:15
- ✓ those who die in the Lord – receive Yeshua into your life and there is no more condemnation for you.
 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yeshua. Romans 8:1
 - The one who believes in Him is not condemned; but whoever does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not put his trust in the name of the one and only Ben-Elohim. John 3:18
 - He who trusts in the Son has eternal life. He who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36

Time to Harvest the Earth

14.14-16 Then I looked, and behold, there was a white cloud—and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man. He had a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the Temple, crying out with a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So the One seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

- ✓ seated on the cloud - The One who has won the right to serve as Judge over all the earth.
- ✓ son of man – Messianic title of Yeshua. Rev 1:13, Dan 7:13-14, Matt 8:20, 24:30, 26:64, John 5:27
- ✓ He had a golden crown on His head – This is Yeshua wearing the "Stephanos" Crown: the victor's crown. In chapter 19, Yeshua wears the King's Crown.
- ✓ son of man – Harvest in the Old Testament means judgement. Hosea 6:11, Joel 3:13, Matt 13:30, 39
- ✓ fully ripe – Means the harvest is long overdue. Mark 4:6
- ✓ the earth was harvested – This is the very end of the age; the millennia of time since the fall of man (sin) when both good & evil grow side by side is done – the parable of the Wheat & Tares (weeds).

Parable of the Wheat and Tares

He presented to them another parable, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while the men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ Now when the stalk sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ So the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ But he replied, 'An enemy did this.' Now the slaves say to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go out and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he says, 'No, for while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.' ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time, I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the weeds and tie them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ³¹ He presented to them another parable, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² It's the smallest of all seeds; yet when it's full grown, it's greater than the other herbs. It becomes like a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like hametz, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened." ³⁴ All these things Yeshua spoke to the crowds in parables. And apart from a parable, He wasn't speaking to them, ³⁵ in order to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world." ³⁶ Then He sent the crowds away and went into the house. His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one sowing the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world. And the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace; in that place will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear!" Matthew 13:24-43

✚ Tares (zizania) is a kind of dandelion (weed), the most common of the four species, being the bearded growing in grain fields. As tall as wheat & barley and resembling wheat in appearance. It is credited among the Jews as being degenerate wheat. Rabbi's call it bastard. The seeds are poisonous to man and herbivorous to animals, producing sleepiness, nausea, convulsions and even death. The plants can be separated out, but the custom, as in the parable, is to leave the cleaning out till near the time of harvest. Matt 13:25-40 The Lord describes the tares as "the sons of the evil one". *Vines Complete Expository Dictionary*

14.17-18 Then another angel came out of the Temple in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Then another angel - the one who has authority over fire - came out from the altar; and he called out with a loud voice to the one holding the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sickle and gather the grape clusters from the vineyard of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."

✚ The best way to understand the two worldwide harvests at the "end of the age", just prior to the Millennial Kingdom, is a harvest of redemption (the saved) and a harvest of wrath (the condemned).

"For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field, one taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill, one taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore stay alert; for you do not know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what time the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and not let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:37-44

Taken (paralambano): to take to (or with) oneself of removal of persons from the earth in judgement, when the "Son of Man" is revealed. Matt 24:40-41 & Luk 17:34-35 This is not referring to the "Rapture."

14.19-20 So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the clusters from the vineyard of the earth and threw them into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was stomped on outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress as high as a horse's bridle for 1,600 stadia.

- ✓ 1,600 stadia is about 200 miles.
- ✓ This is a powerful angel who has the authority to bring great violence upon the earth. These angels came out of the Temple in Heaven means they are sent by God.
- ✓ This second crop is a "grape" harvest; that is to be thrown into God's winepress of wrath. These grapes are the wicked people.
- ✓ This is a preview for the upcoming battle of Armageddon. When the nations will gather in the Jezreel Valley marching up toward Jerusalem for the final Showdown of the Tribulation.

