

Revelation 14

Part 1

Review

- Although the revelation about the Tribulation (Revelation chapters 4 through 19) is essentially chronological (Seven Seals, then Seven Trumpets, then Seven Vials), there are several chapters in the Book of Revelation which are parenthetical to give the reader explanatory matters about things that will transpire but were not contained in the revealing of the seal, trumpet and vial judgments.
- The parenthetical chapter is like a parenthesis in a middle of a sentence, like this (), to give the reader more information about the subject or conditions that are described in the sentence. Example: He finally answered (after taking five minutes to think) that he did not understand the question.

Review

The parenthetical chapters 12 through 14, focus on important characters of the period.

- Chapter 12: the nation Israel, Jesus Christ, Satan and Michael
- Chapter 13: the antichrist, future world ruler (the beast out of the sea) and his associate the false prophet (the beast out of the earth) describing the details of their world government
- Chapter 14: prediction of Jesus Christ in His ultimate triumph, and, with Him are the 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel sealed for protection from persecution (7:3-4), the six angels and visions of judgment of the wicked, how the tribulation saints lived and died in the Lord as martyrs

Visions of the 144,000

- Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
- We see the following:
 - The Lamb standing on Mt. Zion, the city where Yahweh, the God of Israel, dwells (Isaiah 8:18; Psalm 74:2), where he is king (Isaiah 24:23) and where he has installed his king, David (Psalm 2:6-9).
 - The 144,000 have the Lamb's name and the name of the Father on their foreheads. In chp 7, there is no mention what the seal is but here in chp 14, the seal that protected them from satan is the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father.
 - This is in contrast to the unbelievers to unbelievers who receive the mark of the beast (13:16-17)

Praise of the 144,000

- Rev 14:2-3 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.
- John heard a mighty voice from heaven but it had a musical quality and they sang a new song in heaven which is the song of redemption. The angels will join the OT saints, the raptured church, the redeemed tribulation martyrs in praising God for salvation.
- Though we cannot know the reason why only the 144,000 could learn the song but it is enough to know that the focus is upon the praise for Jesus for His redemptive work.

How the 144,000 kept themselves from the world...

- **Revelation 14:4a** These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

Undefined. During the time when the antichrist is worshipped, the world is filled with vile affection, sexual sins abound, yet the 144,000 kept themselves chaste and sexually pure by setting themselves apart from the world system. (1Corinthians 6:18)

- **Revelation 14:4b** These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

Their zeal. They adhered to the Lamb wherever He goes as loyal, devoted followers of Jesus. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 15:24)

- **Revelation 14:4c.** These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

For the service of the Lord. Although all believers have been purchased by the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28), the 144,000 were purchased for a special purpose. In the Old Testament, firstfruits were offered to the Lord to be used for service. (Deuteronomy 18:4) Just like the firstfruits, they are set apart for the service of the Lord by proclaiming the gospel to the lost.

How the 144,000 kept themselves from the world...

- **Revelation 14:5a** And in their mouth was found no guile:
- They must have read the letters of Paul to Timothy to study to show himself approved to God, not ashamed of his work by accurately handling the word of truth. Or the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. (Eph 4:15)
- **Revelation 14:5b** ...for they are without fault before the throne of God.
- Pliny the Younger, a Roman governor wrote about Christians during the 2nd century, “They all bind themselves by oath, “not to commit any crimes such as fraud, theft, or adultery, and subsequently share a meal together.” So with the lives of the 144,000, they were blameless. It does not mean they are sinless but they will live an unquestionable integrity before all who see them.

Vision of the 1st Angel

- **Revelation 14:6-7** And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

As the Tribulation nears its fiery end, for the first time sends an angel is to preach the eternal gospel from the midheaven to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. The only gospel is “how Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” (1Corinthians 15:3-4)

Peter wrote that the prophets and angels desired to look into the grace that should come to us but it was not revealed to them but to us in the last days. (1Peter 1:10-12) The Lord is longsuffering to us ward not wanting anyone to perish but that all should come to repentance. To make sure that everyone be given the opportunity to respond to the eternal gospel, He has already sent the Holy Spirit, next is the 144,000 Jews, and now an angel proclaiming the eternal gospel from midheaven before the horrifying bowl judgments come.

The angel makes a final reasom for sinners to turn from the antichrist to the Lord Jesus, proclaiming that people should “Fear Gpd and give glory to Him and worship Him that made heaven and the sea and the fountains of waters.

Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Mat 24:14)

Emphasis of Tribulation in the Book

- Note that, in the Book of Revelation, more space (Chapters 6 through 18) is given to describe what will happen during the Tribulation than in any period covered by the Book. Although the Millennial kingdom will last for 1,000 years and the Tribulation lasts only for 7 years, we are told more about the Tribulation.
- The Lord may want us to read more about the Tribulation than experience it. On the other hand, the Lord may want us to experience more the Millennium than to read it. Jesus wants us to escape from the Tribulation and enjoy the Millennium.
- During these dark times, the Lord Jesus has given everyone an opportunity to be saved by repenting of his/her sins and committing his/her life in faith, hope and love to the only Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Close of the Present Age

- Within this present age between the two advents of Jesus, the Lord is bringing to fulfillment two distinct programs:
 - Program with the Church which will come to completion at the rapture of the church, (“last days” for the church [1Peter 1:20; Jude 18]), and
 - Program with Israel (“last days” for Israel [Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1; Acts 2:17]).
- In this present consideration, it is the program with Israel being considered. But I would like to discuss the program with the church now because this is today’s way of escape from the Tribulation. If you want to escape the Tribulation, today is the day of salvation from tribulation (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- Today, humble yourself before the Lord Jesus Christ (admit that you are a sinner and you need Jesus as your Savior) and pray (ask for forgiveness and cleansing of your sin), seek His face (look unto Jesus as the author and finisher of your faith) turn from your wicked ways (repent, change of mind and lifestyle), then you can be taken away from the Tribulation in Rapture (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Lord is coming for His Church...

- John 14:1-3 is the first teaching about the Rapture. This is Jesus' guarantee that one day He is coming back for His believers, the Church. He said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself, so that where I am, there may you be also." (John 14:3)
- Paul said, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven." (1Thessalonians 4:16)
- The author of Hebrews said, "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Heb 10:37)
- Peter wrote, "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (1Pe 5:4)
- Jesus alluding to the Rapture that is to come said from heaven to John, "Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."

The Rapture most comforting to believers in Jesus...

- Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 1Th 4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- 2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
- 1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Bible Verses on Pre-Trib Rapture

- 1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
- 1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- 2Pe 2:10 But chiefly them that walk
- Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
- Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

The Timing of the Rapture

- **1Th 5:1** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 1Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- Mat 24:36, 44 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ..Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Occupy yourselves...

- “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).
- “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death TILL HE COME.” (1 Cor. 11:26)
- “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men ... To the end he may stablish your hearts ... at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” (1 Thess. 3:12, 13).
- “Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (Jas. 5:8).
- “... we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself ...” (1 John 3:2, 3).

Occupy yourselves...

- “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:1-4).
- “... denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12, 13). “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28)
- “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word ...” (2 Tim. 4:1, 2).

The Lord Wills That All Be Saved

- Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.
- Eze 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
- Lam 3:33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.