

## Lesson 11 – Revelation 14

### Brief Summary of Revelation 1–9

#### Revelation 1 The Introduction: Scene: Earth. Time: Past (ca. 95 AD).

John introduces the book of prophecy with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the Revelation. John was exiled on the island of Patmos when Jesus sent and communicated the vision of things which must soon take place. John is commanded to write and send the book to the seven churches in Asia.

#### Revelation 2-3 Messages to the Angels of the Seven Churches in Asia:

*Scene: Earth. Time: Present (to original readers in Asia).*

Jesus sends a unique message to each of the seven churches in the western part of the Roman province of Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The cities are listed in the order of the geographical circuit that the messenger of the book would naturally travel as he delivered the letters.

#### Revelation 4–5 Prelude of Praise:

*Scene: Heaven. Time: Future (Onset of the Great Seven-Year Tribulation which will complete the present age, conclude with Jesus' return, and usher in the Millennium).*

Revelation 4-22 records events that will take place in the future. Three consecutive periods of judgment lead to the second return of Jesus Christ: 7 Seals; 7 Trumpets; and, 7 Bowls. A prelude of praise in heaven precedes the onset of each three sets of 7 consecutive judgments. Revelation 4-5 records the initial heavenly prelude of praise that will precede the opening of the 7 Seals of judgment in Revelation 6, ushering in “a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will” (Matt 24:21).

#### Revelation 6 Seven Seal Judgments

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward.)*

The seven seals contain the judgments of the Great Tribulation, concluding with the return of Jesus. The seventh Seal contains the seven Trumpet judgments, and the seventh Trumpet judgment contains the final seven Bowl judgments. The Trumpet and Bowl judgments are all contained within the seventh Seal, unfolding consecutively through the seven-year Tribulation Period. Through judgment, Jesus becomes King of all the nations.

Revelation 6 records John's vision of the Lamb breaking the first 6 of 7 Seals:

- Seal #1: First Apocalyptic Horseman (White Horse): Conqueror
- Seal #2: Second Apocalyptic Horseman (Red Horse): Removes Peace
- Seal #3: Third Apocalyptic Horseman (Black Horse): Famine
- Seal #4: Fourth Apocalyptic Horseman (Ashen Horse): Death and Hades (over ¼ killed)
- Seal #5: Cries of the Martyrs for Judgment and Vengeance
- Seal #6: Earthquake, Blackened Sun, Blood-like Moon, Falling Stars, Split Sky, Moving Mountains and Islands, Hiding Men, Great Day of Wrath

The seventh seal remains unbroken at the end of Revelation 6. Before the Lamb breaks the seventh seal (Rev 8), the foreheads of 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel are sealed.

#### Rev 7:1-8 Sealing of 144,000 from 12 Tribes of Israel: Scene: Earth. Time: Future.

The angels are commanded to refrain from harming the earth, sea, or trees until the bond-servants of God are sealed on their foreheads with the seal of the Living God. The 144,000 include 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### Rev 7:9-17 Prelude of Praise by Multitude in Heaven: Scene: Heaven. Time: Future.

Before the Lamb breaks the 7th Seal, containing the 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls, there is a prelude of praise in heaven by a great, countless multitude from every nation, tribes, peoples, and tongues. The multitude, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, stands before the throne and before the Lamb as they cry, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” (7:10). The heavenly court responds in worship. One of the elders explains to John that the multitude came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, made white in the blood of the Lamb.

\*(A)=Application (C)=Context (D)=Difficult (DOC)=Doctrine (O)=Opinion (PER)=Personal (PR)=Principle (P)=Prophecy

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### Revelation 8–9 Trumpet Judgments

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward, Second Half of Tribulation)*

After the sealing of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel and a prelude of praise by a great multitude in heaven, the Lamb breaks the seventh seal. In response, heaven is silenced for half an hour. The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets, the second of three 7-judgment series that are consecutively released during the Great Tribulation. The seven bowls are contained in the seventh trumpet. The seven trumpets are contained in the seventh seal. When the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, He is actually initiating the seven trumpets. Once the seventh seal is broken, the seven trumpet judgments occur consecutively. Revelation 8–9 records the consecutive release of six of the seven trumpet judgments.

- Trumpet #1: Hail, Fire (upon earth)
- Trumpet #2: Burning Mountain (upon sea)
- Trumpet #3: Wormwood (upon waters)
- Trumpet #4: Sun, Moon, Stars (upon heavens)
- Trumpet #5: Demonic Locusts (upon people)
- Trumpet #6: Horsemen (upon people)
- Trumpet #7: Announces 7 Bowls

### **Introduction to Revelation 10–15:**

#### **Transition from Trumpets (8–9) to Seals (16)**

*Scenes: Earth (10-14) and Heaven (15) Time: Future*

Just as chapter 7, which deals with the 144,000 sealed Israelites and great multitude from all nations, serves as a transition between the Seal and Trumpet judgments, Chapters 10–15 serve as a transition between the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. The interlude provides background information pertaining to significant people, places, and events during the Great Tribulation without advancing chronologically through the judgment series.

Chapter 10 introduces an angel, perhaps Michael the archangel, who announces the 7th trumpet, which contains the seven final Bowl judgments leading to the return of Christ.

Chapter 11 records John's measurement of the temple of God and the altar, then it introduces the two witnesses who prophesy for 1,260 days (42 months) of the Great Tribulation. At the end of 3 ½ years, the two witnesses die and their bodies are displayed for 3 ½ days before they are brought back to life and ascend into heaven.

Chapter 12 is often considered the most symbolic chapter in the Bible. Five of seven major tribulation personages are identified: (1) the woman clothed with the sun=Mary/Judah (2) the red dragon (7 heads, 10 horns, 7 diadems)=Satan; (3) a male child=Christ; (4) Michael/angels; and (5) offspring of woman persecuted by the dragon=Israel.

Chapter 13 introduces the final two of seven major tribulation personages: (6) beast out of the sea=Antichrist; and, (7) beast out of the earth=false prophet.

Chapter 14 reveals the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and the worship of the 144,000 who have the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. After a prelude of praise, angels announce fallen Babylon and the reaping of the earth.

Chapter 15 records a heavenly prelude of praise in preparation for the final series of judgment. Those who had been victorious over the beast and his image sing the Song of Moses and Song of the Lamb. One of the four living creatures gives to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever, and the temple is filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power.

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### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

**Rev. 14:1** Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. <sup>3</sup> And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

1. **Where is the Lamb standing? Who is with Him? What is written on their foreheads? (14:1)**
2. **Describe the voice that John hears from heaven. (14:2)**
3. **What do they sing? Where do they sing? Who could learn the song? (14:3)**
4. **Who are the 144,000? (14:4) Are these the same 144,000 mentioned in 7:4?**
5. **What is not found in the mouths of the 144,000? How are they described? (14:5)**
6. **What do you learn about God from Rev. 14:1-5? How could this transform your life?**

**Rev. 14:6** And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; <sup>7</sup> and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”

**Rev. 14:8** And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.”

**Rev. 14:9** Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” <sup>12</sup> Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

1. **What does John see in midheaven? What does the angel have? To whom is the eternal gospel to be preached? (14:6)**
2. **What does the angel say with a loud voice? Why does the angel tell them to fear God and to give Him glory? Who are they to worship? (14:7)**
3. **What does the following second angel say? Who does the second angel say has fallen? What had she done? (14:8) (O) Who do you think Babylon is?**

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4. What does the following third angel say? What will happen to those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark or name on their forehead? In whose presence will they be tormented? How long will the smoke of their torment go up? How much rest will they receive? (14:9-11)
5. What is the perseverance of the saints? (14:12)
6. What do you learn about God from Rev. 14:6-12 How could this transform your life?

**Rev. 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." **14** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." **16** Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. **18** Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." **19** So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. **20** And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

1. What does the voice from heaven tell John to write? How does the Spirit respond? (14:13)
2. Describe the one that John sees sitting on a white cloud. (14:14)
3. What does another angel come out of the temple and cry out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud? What has come? Why has it come? How does he who sat on the cloud respond? (14:15-16)
4. What does another angel who came out of the temple also have? (14:17)
5. From where does another angel, who has power over fire, come? What does he call out to him who has the sharp sickle? What is to be gathered and why? What happens? (14:18-19)
6. What is trodden outside the city? What comes out from the wine press? How much? (14:20)
7. What do you learn about God from Rev. 14:13-20? How could this transform your life?

Write a prayer in response to Rev. 14.