

Revelation 14

The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ² 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.

³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

Vision of the Angel with the Gospel

⁶ And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people; ⁷ 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."

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 sexual immorality."

Doom for Worshipers of the Beast

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, ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends 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." ¹² Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

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."

The Harvest

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, calling 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 trampled outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

But Who Are They?

1. Scholars differ on identifying the 144,000. Some say the number is literal and records Jews from each tribe who become believers in Jesus Christ.
2. Dispensational interpreters think the number refers to Jews who are saved during the final seven year tribulation period.
3. It is more convincing to say the 144,000 symbolically represent all Christians throughout history, both Jews and Gentiles.
4. They are God's army who wage war by being faithful to the Lamb and enduring persecution. The reasons for thinking John refers to all Christians are numerous, and some stem from [Revelation 14](#), where the 144,000 appear again.
5. First, numbers in apocalyptic literature are regularly symbolic. Here we have the number twelve representing the people of God from the twelve tribes in the OT, and the number is squared and then multiplied by 1,000. Hence the number should be understood as a symbolic way of designating the entire people of God.

Jehovah's Witnesses

Believe 144,000 faithful Christians from Pentecost of 33 AD until the present day will be resurrected to heaven as immortal spirit beings to spend eternity with God and Christ. They believe that these people are "anointed" by God to become part of the spiritual "Israel of God".

Pauls Observations and insights

1. What significance does Mount Zion have in the bible?
2. Who does the lamb represent on the mountain?
3. Who are these 144,000?
4. What is the significance of having His name and His Father's name written on the foreheads of the 144,000?
5. Why does John emphasise, on three occasions, descriptive revelation regarding the voice he heard?
6. Why were they singing a new song before the throne and the living creatures?
7. Why could only the 144,000 learn the new song?
8. What does it mean to be purchased from the earth?

9. John gives us some insight into how to identify the 144,000 – he says they are virgins who follow the lamb everywhere.
10. 144,000 are the first fruits to God from among men, he says they are not liars and they are blameless.
11. Where is mid-heaven?
12. What is an eternal gospel?
13. Why should we fear God and give Him glory?
14. What does it mean 'the judgement has come' and 'worship God as creator'?
15. What is the atonement of the fall of Babylon?
16. Where is Babylon?
17. Babylon will come under a great judgement for the way it has behaved in history.
18. An angel speaks out and gives a warning to mankind not to worship the beast or receive his mark.
19. The warning 'whoever does will come under great judgement and suffer much'.
20. The torture for the judgement is for always, without rest from suffering.
21. But all who remain faithful to God by keeping God's ways will be blessed.
22. Why are the dead from this point onwards blessed?
23. John describes one sitting on the white cloud being the son of man.
24. What does the golden crown on His head represent?
25. What does the sickle represent?
26. One of the angels prompts the onslaught of the end judgement.

27. The judge of all releases His judgement.
28. All the earth is reaped.
29. The angel who has power over fire instructs the angel to harvest the judgement.
30. The sinful harvest is now ripe.
31. In the judgement of the land it is now covered in blood.
32. Who are the cluster that are reaped?
33. 'The harvest of the earth' – what does that mean?
34. 'The gathering of the vine of the earth' – what does that mean?