

Revelation 14

I. Lamb on Mount Zion 14:1-5

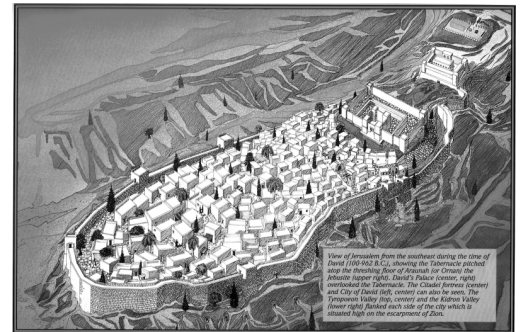
A. Sudden scene shift

1. Contrast to the previous scene where the beast was marking his followers
2. The 144,000 followers of the lamb with the name of God on their foreheads are on Mount Zion
3. Many Christian's after reading chapter 13 and experiencing what the vision depicts may have felt like Elisha's servant, 2 Kng 6:14
 - a. This scene shift shows the victory of God's people
 - b. The symbolic significant of 144,000 shows that God's army, the church militant is completely victorious



B. Significance of the symbol of Zion

1. Originally, Zion was simply the mountain on which the old city of Jerusalem was built. 2 Sam 5:7; 1 Kng 8:1
2. Mount Zion referred to Jerusalem as the city of God
 - a. Ps 48:1-2 - Zion as the City and Mountain of God
 - b. Is 33:20 - Zion is called the city of the appointed feasts
3. Zion is the place where the Lord dwells
 - a. Is 8:18; Ps 76:1-3; 132:13-18 - Place where the Lord dwells
 - b. Ps 125:1-2 - It is a place that abides forever
 - c. Is 2:1-4 - Teaching goes forth from Zion, bringing peace
 - d. Zech 8:1-3 - God will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of his people
4. Note: "Zion" became a symbol for the dwelling of God in general and the presence of God among his people. In Revelation, God's dwelling is also called the "New Jerusalem"
 - a. Rev 3:12
 - b. Rev 21:2f



C. Description of the 144,000

1. They sang a New Song
 - a. Ps 40:1-3; 98:1; 144:9-11 - New songs were songs of

deliverance or victory

- b. Each song was new because each victory was unique
- c. Only those who experienced that victory could "learn" the song.
 - 1) Anyone else singing it would not be singing from experience
 - 2) Example - A parrot can learn words and melodies, but not the song
- 2. They were redeemed from the earth
 - Even though they could neither buy nor sell (13:17), the Lord purchased them as his own
- 3. They were devoted and holy to the Lord
 - a. Did not defile themselves with women
 - b. Kept themselves pure
 - c. Follow the lamb wherever he goes
 - d. Offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb
 - 1) This is sacrificial language
 - 2) Firstfruits were to be offered to God
Ex 23:19; 34:26; Lev 2:12; 23:10; Num 28:26
 - e. No lie was found in their mouths
 - f. They were blameless
 - g. Note on the importance of Character
 - 1) Faithfulness is necessary
 - a) To be in the chorus, the question is not, "can you sing?" but "what kind of person are you?"
 - b) v.4 - The church is depicted as male because in v.8, the enemy is depicted as Babylon the harlot
 - c) v.4 - The church faithfully ignored the harlot's lure
 - 2) Following Christ is necessary
 - a) They followed the lamb
 - b) Mk 8:34 - Must take up cross to follow
 - c) 1 Pet 2:21 - Christ is our example
 - 3) Firstfruits - Offering the best of the best
 - a) Dt 26:1-4 - First to be offered to God
 - b) 1 Cor 16:15 - Offering self is firstfruit
 - 4) Faultless - Were true and devoted
 - a) v.5 - No lie, they were blameless
 - b) They had refused to call Caesar, Lord

II. Heavenly Announcements 14:6-13

A. The 1st Angel

1. Flying in mid air to proclaim the "eternal Gospel"
 - a. It is "eternal" not an afterthought
 - b. "Gospel" refers to an official and public announcement of good news from a ruler
2. For every person on the earth, regardless of nationality
3. Content of the message
 - a. Fear God and give him the glory
 - b. The hour of his judgment has come
 - c. Worship the creator
4. Does this sound like "good news?"
 - a. The Christian gospel comes with a call
 - b. The Christian gospel comes with a warning
 - 1) Jn 8:24
 - 2) Lk 13:3
 - 3) Mk 16:16
 - 4) Jn 3:16, 36
 - c. It is "good news" because there is a change to repent



B. The 2nd Angel

1. Proclaims the fall of Babylon the Great
 - a. Is 21:9 - Echoes Isaiah's prophecy against Babylon
 - b. Dan 4:30-31 - Babylon the Great - echoes Nebuchadnezzar's boasting
2. Babylon made all the nations drink the "maddening wine" of her adulteries

"Maddening" can also mean "passionate"
3. The figure of Babylon
 - a. For Romans, "Babylon" was a poetic reference to the archenemy the Parthians (which ruled old Babylonia)
 - b. Early Jews used "Babylon" as a code name for Rome
 - c. Early Christians used "Babylon" as a code name for Rome (1 Pet 5:13)
4. Point - Shows the futility of Babylon, she will lose
5. Who would want to follow a defeated one?
6. Note on Satan's Methods:
 - a. First Beast - Intimidation
 - b. Second Beast - Deception
 - c. The Harlot - Seduction

C. The 3rd Angel

1. Warning - If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives the mark, he will drink the wine of God's fury
 - a. "Fury" is the same word for "maddening" or "passionate" in v.8 - so this is poetic justice
 - b. Will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb

- 1) Will receive torment
- 2) Not only torment, but humiliation as well
- 3) Will see the Lamb they despised and be unable to escape the reality they once ignored
2. Torment will be endless
 - a. There will be no rest day or night
 - b. Contrast between righteous suffering and wicked suffering
 - 1) The smoke of God's worshippers on earth is short
 - 2) The smoke of the Beast worshippers is forever
3. Call for patient endurance - Knowing that God will work it out gives patience endurance

D. The Voice from Heaven

1. Blessed are those who died "in the Lord"
2. They will rest from their labor
 - a. "Labor" not merely "work"
 - b. 7:15 - Before God they will serve him night and day
 - c. Will not rest and do "nothing," but rest from hard, backbreaking, heartbreaking labor

III. Harvest Time 14:14-20

A. Description of the Angel

1. One like a "Son of Man"
 - a. A typical phrase that means "human"
 - b. This one looks human
2. Crown of gold
 - a. The word is "stephanos," meaning victory wreath
 - b. It is gold signifying it is precious and permanent



B. Another angel called to him and told him to reap because the harvest is "ripe"

Suggests that a period of time has gone by

C. Two Harvests

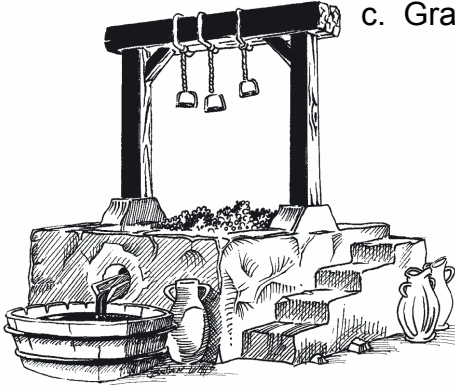
1. First Harvest - The earth, refers to the faithful Christians
2. Second Harvest - Grapes
 - a. The 2nd harvest is treated differently
 - 1) Mt 3:12 - The wheat goes in the barn, but the chaff gets burned
 - 2) 1 Thess 4:16-17

b. Another Angel came from the altar and told him to harvest the grapes because they are also ripe

1) A period of time has gone by, they were given a chance to repent and did not

2) Jas 1:15 - "ripe" is translated, "mature" or "full grown" here. When sin is "full grown" it brings death

3) The altar is where the souls of the martyrs were crying out "low long?" 6:9



c. Grapes were trampled in the winepress of God's wrath

1) Is 63:3-4; Joel 3:12-15 - Reference to Judgment

2) Blood is 4-5 feet deep for 200 miles

3) Note: It would take 120 billion people to fill a river 200 miles long and 4 feet deep and mile wide. The earth's population is only 6 billion. Therefore this is not to be taken "literally." This is symbolic of the horrible wrath of God against those who do not repent.