

# Supplemental Study

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# REVELATION

## OUR FINAL VICTORY

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## Destined to Win

Revelation 14:1-20 (NKJV) – Bible passage [my explanatory notes]

### 1. The Description of the 144,000 (Rev. 14:1-5)

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb [Jesus] standing on Mount Zion [this is looking forward at the end of the Tribulation in Heaven – v. 3 describes a heavenly scene], and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand [same 144,000 Jewish evangelists of Rev. 7 – they have made it through the Tribulation – not one was lost.], having His Father's name written on their foreheads. [the mark signifies ownership and protection]

<sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. [The voice from heaven is powerful and majestic, likened to thunder and water, yet it carries a musical quality of joy and worship expressed by harps.]

<sup>3</sup> They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. [The new song is unique to the 144,000, signifying their personal testimony of deliverance and faithfulness during the Great Tribulation.]

<sup>4</sup> These are the ones who were not defiled with women [they were not involved in the sexual immorality of the world], for they are virgins [NIV – kept themselves pure; NASB – literally “are chaste men”]. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

<sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

#### The Description of the 144,000:

1. They were **branded** on their foreheads (Rev. 14:1)
2. They were **bought** by the blood of Jesus (Rev. 14:4)
3. They were **bursting** in their praise (Rev. 14:2-3)
4. They were **blameless** in their lifestyle (Rev. 14:4-5)
5. They were **bound** to the Lamb (Rev. 14:4)
6. They were **bold** in their witness (Rev. 7:9)

#### Alternative Interpretation:

Rev. 14:1-5 could be referring to the end of the Tribulation on **physical** Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Psalm 2:6 says, “I will set my King on Mount Zion.” However, I believe the rest of the passage is understood best as a heavenly scene.

### 2. The Declaration of the Gospel (Rev. 14:6-7)

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw **another angel** flying in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

<sup>7</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” [This is so interesting because God's commission to spread the Gospel was given to people (Matthew 28:18-20), not angels. Yet, here, in **one final call**, God is mercifully sharing the gospel through an angel, who will be heard by all. See 2 Peter 3:9.]

### 3. The **Destiny** for God's Enemies (**Rev. 14:8-11, 14-20**)

<sup>8</sup> And **another angel** followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." [Babylon, the birthplace of false religion (Genesis 11:1-9; Tower of Babel), symbolizes human pride and defiance against God. This announcement is **proleptic**, spoken as though Babylon has already fallen, though its fall is detailed in Revelation 17-18. The imagery of "wine" and "immorality" reflects Babylon's seduction of the nations into sin and rebellion.]

<sup>9</sup> Then a **third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast [The Antichrist] and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, [This mark represents allegiance to the Antichrist.]

<sup>10</sup> he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God [Symbolic language of judgment - In ancient times, if a king want to execute a prisoner, he would put poison in a cup. He then would hand it to the prisoner and say, "Drink this cup full of poison."], which is poured out full strength [undiluted wrath] into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with **fire and brimstone** [symbolizes eternal torment in hell - see Luke 16:23. Also, Rev. 19:20; 20:10; 21:8] in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. [Those who reject God and worship the Antichrist will ever be reminded of what Jesus did for them throughout eternity, and even look at Him and His angels.]

<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascends **forever and ever**; and they have no rest day or night, [This verse emphasizes the eternal nature of hell's punishment. Those who reject God and worship the beast will face unending suffering.] who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

<sup>14</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. [The Son of Man refers to Jesus Christ, depicted as the victorious judge. The golden crown signifies His authority, and the sharp sickle represents the **GRAIN** harvest of His judgment.]

<sup>15</sup> And **another angel** came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." [The time of judgment has arrived. The "ripe" harvest symbolizes humanity's full measure of sin.]

<sup>16</sup> So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. [This depicts the swift and decisive nature of Christ's judgment. The reaping of the earth represents the separation of the righteous and the wicked.]

<sup>17</sup> Then **another angel** came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. [A second reaper, an angel, is introduced to carry out the next phase of judgment: the **GRAPE** harvest of Armageddon.]

<sup>18</sup> And **another angel** came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." [The ripe grapes symbolize the wicked, ready for destruction.]

<sup>19</sup> So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. [The winepress imagery vividly portrays God's judgment as the wicked are crushed like grapes, with their blood flowing as a result.]

<sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. [The bloodshed at Armageddon will be massive, with blood flowing as high as a horse's bridle for 200 miles. This hyperbolic imagery emphasizes the scale of God's final judgment.]

#### **Alternative Interpretation:**

Dr. Danny Akin states, "While some students of Scripture believe the first (GRAIN) depicts the harvest of the righteous and the second (GRAPE) the unrighteous, **it is best to see both as harvests of judgment on the wicked.**" (See Joel 3:12-13)

### 4. The **Delight** for God's Saints (**Revelation 14:12-13**)

<sup>12</sup> Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. [Believers who endure the Tribulation are commended for their perseverance and faithfulness to God, even in the face of persecution and suffering.]

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." [This verse highlights the blessedness of believers who die in the Lord. Their death marks the end of their earthly suffering and the beginning of eternal rest and reward in God's presence.]