



### What's Coming Up

- Chapter 13 vs Chapter 14
  - Chapter 13 – Bleak, horrifying
  - Chapter 14 – Encouraging
- The Interludes
  - A break between the \_\_\_\_\_ of Chapter 13 and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Chapters 15-16

### Revelation 14:1-5

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

### Mount Zion

- An allusion to \_\_\_\_\_, the heavenly city
- Mount Zion, a place with a \_\_\_\_\_, is a contrast with the \_\_\_\_\_

of the seashore where the dragon ended Chapter 12

### The 144,000

- Characteristics
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to God
  - Morally \_\_\_\_\_ male virgins
  - Followers of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Speakers of \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The Song
  - Only the 144,000 could learn it
  - Not even the angels could know the song
- Zephaniah 3:12b-13
  - They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, <sup>13</sup> those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."
- 1 Samuel 21:4-5
  - <sup>4</sup> And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women." <sup>5</sup> And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?"

### Purity

- Sexual Purity?
  - Kept themselves from women
  - They were virgins (usually a term used for \_\_\_\_\_ who have been kept sexually pure)
- Spiritual Purity
  - Israel is often referred to as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ was portrayed as harlotry
- 2 Corinthians 11:2
  - <sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**Revelation 14:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language 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, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

**The Eternal Gospel**

- The First Angel's Proclamation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ . They must reverence Him instead of the monster.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ . They must honor Him instead of the dragon.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ . They must fall before Him instead of the beast's image.
- Romans 1:18-20
  - <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

**Revelation 14:8**

<sup>8</sup> Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

**Fallen is Babylon**

- Jeremiah 51:7
  - <sup>7</sup> Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.
- Isaiah 21:9
  - <sup>9</sup> And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!" And he answered, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and

all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground."

- Babylon...
  - OT Babylon = 1<sup>st</sup> Century Rome = \_\_\_\_\_
- **The 144,000 are described as \_\_\_\_\_, Babylon in the \_\_\_\_\_**

**Revelation 14:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur 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, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

**The Wrath**

- Anyone who worships the beast...
  - He will drink the wine of \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ with fire and sulphur
  - \_\_\_\_\_, day or night

**Revelation 14:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

**Blessed are the Dead in Christ**

- A call for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints

- Blessed are \_\_\_\_\_ in The Lord
  - They will \_\_\_\_\_ from their labors (unlike the unbelievers facing hell)
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_ follow them

"But here is a case where John almost certainly used the verb "follow" not in the sense of "come along behind," but in its equally valid sense of "accompany." Thus, John's point is that "those who die in the Lord" will "rest from their labor," because "their deeds will accompany them." That is, this is simply picture language meant to assure John's readers that both they and their deeds will be recognized together in the believers' final "rest." - *Gordon Fee*

#### Revelation 14:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup> And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." <sup>16</sup> So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

#### One Like a Son of Man

- A White Cloud
  - The presence of clouds indicates the presence of God, specifically Jesus in this verse, similar to Revelation 1:7
- Daniel 7:13
  - <sup>13</sup> "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

#### The Grain Harvest

- Matthew 13:39, Mark 4:29, Joel 3:13 describe harvesting the earth
- What does this represent?
  - \_\_\_\_\_, or
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
- The grain harvest can be a positive event, the \_\_\_\_\_ (Easley, Fee)
- The grain harvest can represent the administration of \_\_\_\_\_

#### Revelation 14:17-20

<sup>17</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." <sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. <sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

#### The Grape Harvest

- Isaiah 63:3
  - <sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.
- Psalm 75:8
  - <sup>8</sup> For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.
- In a way, the two harvests (grain & grapes) allude to \_\_\_\_\_

#### Summary

"God's people in Asia Minor must do three things: continue to bear witness to the nations; be warned of the maddening adulteries of the enemy; and be prepared to suffer and die as part of their witness—all of which finds expression in the narratives that follow." *Gordon Fee*