

Revelation 14 - Beginning to Wrap Things Up

The 144,000

I covered these verses about the 144,000 in great detail in chapter 7 so, I will not go over it again here.

Rev 14:1-20 ESV 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. 2 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, 3 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. 4 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, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

The eternal gospel is proclaimed to every nation, tribe, language and people

6 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**. 7 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."

- It is as if things are wrapping up and the LORD is calling people to make a decision
- The message goes to every nation, tribe, language and people.
- People are told to give glory to God for his judgment has come - WORSHIP HIM

The ETERNAL GOSPEL

The gospel is an eternal gospel, in the sense that the good news it promises is eternal life, and for those who reject it, eternal judgement.

- Mat 25:46 ESV And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**"
- (NOTE: Eternal life is used 30 times in the NT) Here are some other things the bible describes as eternal.

Rom 1:20 ESV 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.

2Co 4:18 ESV as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the **things that are unseen are eternal.**

2Co 5:1 ESV For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have **a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

Eph 3:8-12 ESV To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the **eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

2Ti 2:10 ESV Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with **eternal glory**.

1Pe 5:10 ESV And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his **eternal glory** in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Heb 5:9 ESV And being made perfect, he became the source of **eternal salvation** to all who obey him,

Heb 9:12 ESV he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an **eternal redemption**.

Heb 9:15 ESV Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised **eternal inheritance**, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Jud 1:7 ESV just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of **eternal fire**.

Babylon is fallen

8 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**."

Many believe Babylon to represent false religious systems

- Sexual immorality is often a metaphor for Israel worshiping false gods
 - Jer 3:20 ESV Surely, **as a treacherous wife leaves her husband**, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD."
 - Exo 34:13-16 ESV You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of their daughters for your sons, and **their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods**.

A warning of judgement to those who worship the beast or receive his mark

9 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, 10 **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.** 11 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."

You can see that a clear line of distinction is made at worship

- Vs7 says " worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."
- Vs11 talks about the judgment of those who are "worshippers of the beast and its image"

God's wrath is poured out full strength on those who worship the beast

- **Two eternal destinies - eternal life, or wrath of God** -- Joh 3:36 ESV Whoever believes in the Son **has eternal life**; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him.**
- **Two destinies, wrath or salvation through Jesus** -- 1Th 5:9 ESV For God has not destined us for **wrath**, but to obtain **salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**
- **Through the death of Christ we are saved from the wrath of God** -- Rom 5:8-9 ESV but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more **shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**
- **God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience** -- Eph 5:5-6 ESV For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**
- **Jesus the one who delivers us from the wrath to come** -- 1Th 1:9-10 ESV For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**
- Rev 19:15 ESV From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. **He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.**

They will be tormented with fire and sulfur -- the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever - fire is part of the eternal judgment meted out by God

- Mat 3:10-12 ESV Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is **cut down and thrown into the fire**. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but **the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.**"
- Mat 13:40-42 ESV Just as the weeds are gathered **and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age**. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and **throw them into the fiery furnace**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Mat 13:49-50 ESV So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and **throw them into the fiery furnace**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Mat 18:8-9 ESV And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet **to be thrown into the eternal fire**. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to **be thrown into the hell of fire**.
- Mat 25:41 ESV "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, **into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels** Mat 25:46 ESV And these will go away into *eternal punishment*, but the righteous into *eternal life*."

An encouragement to the saints to endure

12 Here is **a call for the endurance of the saints**, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. 13 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!**"

Endurance -- a similar comment was made in --

- Rev 13:9-10 If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the **endurance and faith of the saints**.

There are still those who must die in the LORD - even from this point forward - this shows that saints are still dying during the time of the last 3 ½ years

Rest from their labors

- Joh 17:4 ESV I glorified you on earth, having **accomplished the work** that you gave me to do.
- 2Ti 4:7-8 ESV I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race**, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous

judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- Col 4:17 ESV And say to Archippus, "See that you **fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.**"

Their deeds follow them

- Rev 19:8 ESV it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is **the righteous deeds of the saints.**
- 1Pe 2:12 ESV Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day of visitation.
- 1Pe 1:17 ESV And if you call on him as **Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds**, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,
- Col 3:17 ESV And whatever you do, in word or **deed**, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- 2Co 5:10 ESV For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for **what he has done in the body**, whether good or evil.

The harvest of the earth

14 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. 15 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.**" 16 So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

- Mat 9:36-38 ESV When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;** 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
- Mar 4:26-29 ESV And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But **when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.**"

A harvest of grapes for the wrath of God

17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 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.**" 19 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.** 20 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.

- **Wrath is building / ripening** -- Rom 2:4-11 ESV Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are **storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath** when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. 11 For God shows no partiality.
- **The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete** -- Gen 15:16 ESV And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

At the harvest, there will be both an ingathering of souls as well as the judgment of God

Mat 13:36-43 ESV Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. **The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.** 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.