

Revelation 14: The Harvest and the Vintage

14:1

This is a scene given to us, not in chronological order, since we see a picture of the inauguration of the Millennial reign of Jesus. I believe God gives us these pictures to encourage our faith right before He demonstrates His justice upon the unbelieving (Chapter 16ff).

This chapter is divided into 3 sub-sections, marked out by what John sees. This is made evident by his use of και ειδον, (and I looked, or and I saw; **14:1; 14:6; 14:14**).

Mt. Zion's location is often debated, but it is most likely on the earth.

This posture of the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion contrasts nicely with the dragon in chapter 13 standing on the sand of the sea. It reminds me of David standing opposite Goliath on opposite mountain peaks before their great battle.

The Lamb is with the 144,000 from chapter 7, who in contrast with those who received the mark of the beast, are marked on their foreheads. Their mark, however, marks them as belonging to the Father (and other manuscripts include "His name and His Father's name").

It is similar to the priests who were marked on their foreheads of their turbans as "Holiness to the LORD"

14:2

God's voice is often described to us as sounding like "many waters" (**Ezekiel 43:2**) and as thunder (**Job 37:2**)

14:3-5

What a demonstration of God's protection. Here, they have made it through the tribulation and are standing with Jesus upon Mt. Zion, having overcome Satan's tri-fold attack upon their faith and their lives because they were sealed. We are likewise sealed (**Ephesians 1:13,14**).

They being virgins could be a literal fasting from women due to the tribulation being holy war, or the constant attacks not allowing time or space for marriage (not as likely since marriage is not a defilement).

Some consider it to mean that they remained unpolluted from the false doctrines and teachings of the anti-trinity

No deceit being in their mouths receives a blessing. See (**Psalm 32** and **John 1**).

14:6,7

Our 2nd encounter with και ειδον.

This vision consists of 3 proclamations from 3 angels.

Here, John sees an angel with an *everlasting* gospel.

Some see 3 gospels taught within the scope of the overall gospel. They indicate there is a gospel of the Kingdom of God as seen in **Mark 1:14,15** as well as a Gospel of grace that we see in Paul's writings, such as **Acts 20:24**

What a marvelous adjective to give to the gospel. See further **Isaiah 40:6-8; I Peter 1:22-25**

There is no one outside the scope of this announcement. It is for everyone, not just Israel.

This part of the everlasting gospel (good news) is telling of the need to fear God, glorify God, and worship God.

Fear consists of both the awe, reverence, and respect that is due to God based solely on His being. Just who He is warrants all of this. Over 2,000,000 hymns in the Christian faith, written mainly in major key. We sing of our salvation.

Additionally, fear speaks of recognizing who we are, and that apart from Him, we are not okay, for He has all authority, even over our very souls.

See **Luke 12:4,5**

14:8

The second of the 6 angels here announces the fall of Babylon.

The twice used phrase 'fallen' is for emphasis.

Some see Babylon as the apostate church, some as Rome, and still others as a rebuilt Babylon.

14:9,10

Our 3rd angel of the chapter draws our attention to those who have received the mark of the beast, or drank some Monster energy drinks :/ (Lol)? or (Wol)?

God is perfectly just. Someone has got to drink this wine. Sin has happened every second since Eve ate the fruit, and will continue until Christ casts Satan into the Lake of Fire (**Rev. 20**).

I have participated in this sin, as well as all of you.

This is the cup Jesus prayed away from Himself in Gethsemane. Yet, He still drank it down on the cross. If He did not drink it for you, you will have to drink it yourself, and it will not be pleasant, nor will it ever be over with.

They chose to drink the wine of her fornication (**14:8**), now they must drink the wine of God's wrath.

14:11

There may not be any stronger scriptural support for the difficult doctrine of eternal, conscience torment (ECT) than right here.

ECT is just because of who God is, just as Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient because of who He is

Jesus referred to hell in 11 of its 12 occurrences in the NT, and references to hell fire came from Jesus 12 out of its 19 usages. We speak of hell to others out of our love for them, not out of our judgment on them.

14:12

The fact that the 144,000 are standing there with Jesus demonstrates the patience of the saints, which plays out in their obedience to the commandments of God.

Isaiah 40:31

14:13

What comfort! What blessed assurance! Those who die in the faith, for the faith in the tribulation receive a special blessing. This proclamation comes not from an angel, but from God Himself, specifically from the Holy Spirit.

They are granted rest and the fruit of their labors follow them.

This is a picture of the relationship between faith and works.

Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12,13; James 2:14-26

14:14-16

Here is our 3rd occurrence of *καὶ εἶδον*.

A fulfillment of Jesus' testimony given in **Mark 14:61,62**

Golden crown demonstrates His full authority. Sharp sickle demonstrated His right to judge.

Here, the entire earth is reaped.

Some see this as 1 judgment with **verses 17-20**, others as distinct in that the 1st harvest in **14-16** is of believers, while 17-20 is clearly of unbelievers.

I favor the latter interpretation for the reasons given by the texts of **John 4:34-38** and **Matthew 13:47-50**

14:17,18

This is in contrast to the pruned vine of **John 15** where they bear good fruit.

Psalms 80:8ff for the failure of God's vineyard.

14:19

This is fulfilled in **Revelation 19:15**

14:20

Up to the horses' bridles may mean the sprinkling went that high; 1600 furlongs is likely the distance the bloodshed went. Taken literally, there may not be enough people in the world to create blood 4-6' deep and nearly 200 miles long.

Isaiah 63:1-6

This is why **Isaiah 52:13-53** is so glorious