

Hear Prophecy

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REVELATION PART 17

144,000 and 3 ANGELS



Chapter 14 tells us more about the 144,000 Jewish converts who were introduced in chapter 7; and discloses the proclamations of 3 angels, concerning pending judgements.

Verse 1 describes “a *Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads*”.

The Lamb obviously refers to Jesus Christ, who at that time is standing on Mount Zion. With him are the 144,000 Jewish converts who have been sealed from judgement (chapter 7).

They were “sealed” with the name of the Father on their foreheads. This seal keeps them from the effects of judgements that are to follow.

In verses 2 and 3, John describes hearing “a *voice from heaven, like the voice of loud thunder*”. There have been several references to voices that sound like thunder. I don’t know about you, but thunder is very unsettling and makes you very aware of its presence.

But along with the “*voice of loud thunder*”, there was the sound of “*harpists playing their harps*”, providing a little more soothing atmosphere to the “thunder voices”.

“*They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders*” (v 3). The elders and the living

creatures were introduced earlier and are constantly sitting before the Father, providing continuing praise and confirmation to God.

But “*no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth*” (v 3).

It appears that the song being played by the harpists was indeed “*a new song*”, that had to be *learned* by the 144,000. But the strange part is that nobody was able to learn the “new song” except this group of people.

This group of 144,000 converted Jews were serving a very critical role in the end-times drama, their task was to evangelize their fellow Jews who were left behind after the Christians were taken away at the Rapture. God gave them their own special “marching song”, with which to carry out his mission. God will provide the “battle hymn” if we will follow his lead.

Verses 4 and 5 further describes this group of men as “*not defiled with women*”, and that they are “*the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes*”. “*And in their mouth was found no deceit*”. This was a very special group of people, morally pure and obedient, *sealed* by God for their place in prophecy.

The detailed discussion about the 144,000 men is included in the beginning of this chapter, I think, to be in very stark contrast to the rest of the chapter; where judgement is proclaimed for those people on earth who are *not* sealed by God.

The Proclamations of Three Angels

The **first of these 3 angels** is described in verse 6, “*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*”.

God is continuing to show his mercy to those who are left behind on earth. Now he has provided an angel flying around the globe, preaching the gospel story to everyone who will listen. Certainly, the presence of an angel flying around and preaching will get your attention.

And that is exactly the point. God is doing everything possible to “get the attention” of earthlings at this future prophetic moment (and for that matter, in our time today as well).

The message of the angel is very clear, *“Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water”* (v 7).

“The hour of judgement has come”. “Fear God ... Give Glory to Him ... Worship Him”. How much clearer can it be?

And, certainly this message applies to us today as well.

Verse 8 describes the **second angel**. *“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””*.

This is the first mention of Babylon The Great in the book of Revelation. It will come up again in chapters 17 and 18. Some people interpret this prophecy about Babylon to be a literal city - Babylon, located in modern day Iraq. Some people interpret this prophecy to be the political or religious systems of the day. I think this prophecy refers to the latter.

During the reign of the Anti-Christ, at this point in the end-time agenda, the world has been brought together as a global political/economic system, led by the Anti-Christ himself, and a global religious system, led by the False Prophet.

“She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (v 8). The political and religious systems of that day have led the world into never-before levels of debauchery against the “things of God”.

The world has experienced the seal and trumpet judgements of God, and is about to feel the bowl judgements. Mankind’s political and religious systems, while continuing to shake their fists in the face of Almighty God, will be destroyed. God is still in control and will exercise his sovereignty at this moment in future-time.

Verses 9 and 10 reveal the message of the **third angel**, *“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God”*.

Verse 11 finishes the judgement, *“and they have no rest day or night who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name”*.

Those who are unfortunate enough to be alive and left behind at this point in time will be judged harshly if they fall victim to the Anti-Christ and his earthly-systems.

Resisting the political/economic and religious systems of the day will be very, very, difficult, or even impossible, to do. But there will be some who will resist the snare of Satan and his minions.

Verse 12 says *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”*. It will be certain death for anybody who will not accept the *“mark of the beast”*, who refuse to *“worship the beast and his image”*. But there will be some who would rather die than worship anybody but God.

Verse 13 says *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on”*. I would rather be *“blessed”* (v 13), than to be forced to *“drink of the wine of the wrath of God”* (v 10).

Most of us could not imagine what it will be like at that point in time for people who are left behind. It will be literally “hell on earth” for anybody who has some understanding of God’s commandments, and realize they missed the Rapture. They will try to do right, but the political and religious pressure to conform to the world systems, and worship the Beast, the Anti-Christ, will be too much for most people.

They will not have studied the book of Revelation and will not have any clue as to the wrath of God, as revealed to those who are taken in by Satan.

But, the very few who resist, and are slain for their refusal to take the mark, will be “blessed”.

Being BLESSED is better than experiencing the WRATH OF GOD.

