

The Apocalypse

Chapter 14, part 1

I. Introduction

- a. In our previous two lessons, John was given a vision of the Antichrist and his helper, the false prophet
 - i. There is little doubt that this vision was troubling to John as both of these men will terrorize the Jewish nation
 1. Today's lesson gives us a little relief for John as it takes a quick glance into the future before returning to the Tribulation prophecy

II. Commentary

a. Verse 1

- i. We are given a glimpse of the future of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
 1. Though they are in Tribulation presently, before long they will be standing before their Savior rejoicing in His salvation
 - a. As we have said, this will be great comfort to John following the vision of the previous chapter

b. Verses 2-3

- i. John hears the voice of God – powerful, yet comforting
- ii. John hears the sound of harpists
 1. There will be music in Heaven as it is appropriate in the worship of God
- iii. John hears the 144,000 singing a new song
 1. This is a song that only the 144,000 sing
 - a. No doubt, their ministry is a special one

c. Verse 4

- i. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists are virgins
 1. There is some bit of disagreement as to exactly what this means
 - a. Obviously, some say they never had a physical relationship with a woman
 - i. As busy as they will be with God's Word during the Tribulation period, this surely seems plausible (**I Cor. 7:7-8, 32**)
 - b. Clarence Larkin says this means they were not guilty of the sin of fornication
 - i. Therefore, they were not defiled
 - c. Some say this speaks of religious virgins
 - i. That is, they had not defiled themselves with the one-world religion
 - ii. This follows the leadership of the Lord
 1. These were not "fair weather" Christians
 - iii. These were redeemed from among men
 1. These were the firstfruits of the Tribulation period
 - a. It seems they will be saved through the ministry of the two witnesses
 - b. It also appears that God works through them to save many of His elect during this dreadful time

d. Verse 5

- i. These lived pure lives before the Lord
 1. "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a

perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.” (Jam. 3:2)

2. Surely, God will give them a special grace during this time
- e. **Verse 6**
- i. An angel is seen “*flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth*”
 1. There is but one Gospel in the Bible
 - a. No matter what it is called, the only good news for man is that God sent His Son into this world to take the place of sinners at Calvary by paying their sin debt
 - b. This is not some new Gospel, as some suppose
 - i. Since it’s called “*everlasting*”, that seems easy enough to see
 2. This is the only place in the Bible where an angel is said to preach the Gospel
 - a. The Lord’s churches are commissioned with this message today
 - i. She will not be present, however, during this awful time
 3. Have you ever considered what language this would be in?
 - a. It seems that God will again work the miracle of tongues where every person hears this message in their own language
- f. **Verse 7**
- i. This is part of the Gospel
 1. Before a person can see their need for Christ, they need to see themselves lost
 - a. The angel preaches the judgment of God that is to come on the lost
 - i. The way to escape this judgment is to be “in Christ”
- g. **Verse 8**
- i. This is the first mention of Babylon in the book of Revelation
 1. Remember, this book contains the events which surround the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 - a. This seems proof enough that Babylon will be rebuilt
 - i. She has never been destroyed in the way God said she would be (**Isa. 13:19-20, Jer. 50:13**)
 1. She will be destroyed and nothing will be gleaned from her
 - ii. Saddam Hussein quietly rebuilt much of Babylon when he was in power
 1. Pictures have been produced that show buildings actually built on the old foundations
 2. Both religious and commercial Babylon is about to be judged by God