

The Apocalypse

Chapter 14, part 2

- I. Introduction
 - a. In our previous lesson, we saw the destruction of Babylon foreshadowed
 - i. We will study this again in coming chapters
 - ii. Both commercial Babylon and religious Babylon is to be considered
 - 1. That is, religious Babylon and the city Babylon are about to be overthrown
 - b. Today's lesson announces the condemnation of all who are taken in by the future abominable monarch
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 9-11**
 - i. A third angel is heard making a proclamation
 - 1. All those that worship the beast and take his mark will be doomed
 - a. In this life and the life to come
 - b. These have drunk of the harlot's cup (**Rev. 17:2**)
 - c. These are about to "*drink of the wine of the wrath of God*"
 - i. Though God has poured out His wrath many times in the past, this time will be different
 - ii. This will be the pure wrath of God in "*full strength*"
 - d. These will be eternally doomed
 - i. They will be eternally tormented by "fire and brimstone" in the Lake of Fire
 - ii. "*And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever*"
 - 1. This is not annihilation – this is eternal torment
 - iii. They will have "*no rest day or night*" throughout eternity
 - b. **Verses 12-13**
 - i. The patience, or endurance, of the saints is seen throughout the Tribulation period
 - 1. Remember, a number that no man can number will be saved during this awful time
 - 2. Also, remember that "*tribulation produces perseverance*" (**Rom. 5:3**)
 - 3. As believers see the time of their vindication drawing near, they will show patience
 - ii. It seems that the number of Christian martyrs is going to grow considerably during the last half of the Tribulation period
 - 1. Though God always gives His children dying grace (**Psa. 23**), these saints surely will be given a special grace to endure these trials and the horrible tortures of the antichristian agenda
 - iii. The promise of Heaven is spelled out plainly
 - 1. Today, we are to work for the Lord
 - a. A servant is expected to serve

2. In Heaven, we will rest from our labors here on Earth

c. **Verses 14-16**

- i. These verses detail the vision John received of Jesus sitting on a cloud as God's appointed King
 1. He has a crown on His head
 2. He has a sickle in His hand
 - a. This sickle is sharp
 - i. This signifies the severity of judgment that is coming
- ii. An angel is seen crying unto Jesus to "*thrust in [His] sickle and reap*"
 1. The time of reaping has come
 - a. No doubt, we are nearing the end of the Tribulation period
 2. The Earth is ripe for harvest
 - a. This is not the harvest of the saved
 - b. This speaks of the harvest of judgment
 - i. The inhabitants of the Earth are about to be judged and believers are about to be vindicated
 3. Jesus thrusts His sickle into the Earth and reaps the Earth
 - a. This is a bit of foreshadowing of the very end of the Tribulation period

d. **Verses 17-20**

- i. These verses tell us of the reaping of the angels which occurs near the end of the Tribulation period
 1. The vine is gathered and cast "*into the great winepress of the wrath of God*"
 - a. This speaks of the judgment that occurs around Jerusalem
 - b. When this happens, blood will literally flow up to the horses' bridle for 1600 furlongs
 - i. A furlong is about 600 feet
 1. 1600 furlongs equal about 960,000 feet, or 200 miles!
 2. It will take 7 months to bury the dead and the stench of death will remain for quite some time as well (**Eze. 39:11-12**)

III. Conclusion

- a. Why are there so many references to the end of the Tribulation period in this chapter?
 - i. First, we are speedily approaching the end of the Tribulation period
 - ii. Another possible reason is that the judgment is pronounced on these before it happens as a warning
 - iii. Lastly, this is an encouragement to the saints of God that will be saved during this dreadful time