

Lesson 18
Revelation 14
Triumph of the Lamb

Memory verse: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NKJV)

As the book of Revelation has unfolded, the apocalypse has unfolded and we saw a first vision of Christ in chapter 1, the vision of Christ in all His glory moving through His church. Then in chapters 2 and 3 we read His personal letters to the churches calling them to holiness and obedience. Then in chapters 4 and 5 we were lifted to heaven to the very throne of God and we saw all of this action around the throne of God as God began to move to enact His judgment. In chapter 6 we came down from heaven back to the earth, and from chapter 6 through chapter 11 we were given visions of the judgments of God as He devastates the wicked of the world who refuse to believe the gospel and as He begins to take over the universe. That description of the judgment of God runs from chapter 6 through chapter 11 and it picks up again at chapter 15 and runs through chapter 20.

We're in that interlude of chapters 12 to 14. Now the purpose of chapters 12 and 13 is to go back over the same time period, the Tribulation, and look at it not from God's side, not from the side of God's judgment, but from Satan's side. And that's what we've been doing in chapter 12 and chapter 13. Chapter 12 we saw Satan's effort to destroy Israel. And chapter 13 we saw Satan's Antichrist and Satan's false prophet.

So by the time we come to chapter 14 we've seen the Tribulation from God's side, we've seen this time of Tribulation to come upon the earth from Satan's side. Satan will make every effort to destroy the Jews, to destroy any who believe in the gospel, to build one world empire under Antichrist with the aid of the false prophet, the two beasts described in chapter 13.

Now chapter 14 takes us back to what God is doing. It doesn't pick up the judgments of the time of Tribulation, they get picked up again in chronological order in chapter 15. But chapter 14 takes us back to looking at this time period from God's perspective. He gives us a general preview of the judgments to come and of the return of Christ, and then picks the details up in chapter 15.

Chapter 14 then marks a dramatic change. Chapter 12 and 13, Satan is in action. Chapter 14, God is in action. Before the specifics of the seventh trumpet mentioned back in chapter 11 unfold in chapter 15 and 16, there are three visions given in this chapter. All three of them look at the victory of the Lamb. The first vision has to do with a hundred and forty-four thousand. The second vision has to do with a series of angels. The final vision has to do with the one who comes with a sharp sickle in his hand and brings judgment.

So as we come to chapter 14 we are turning to God's side of the action again. And we immediately meet a group of triumphant men who are in the classic category of winners, victors, namely the hundred and forty-four thousand. We have seen Satan's plan to take over, we have seen in chapter 12 and 13 all of Satan's assault, and all of his enterprise and all of his operation, and now we're going to find out that with all of that effort by Satan and all of that effort by demons and the world system that engulfs all of humanity, with all of that Satan in the end does not win because in the end on Mount Zion stands the Lamb and with Him the invincible hundred and forty-four thousand.

Chapter 14 gives us a monumental moment. It goes all the way back to Psalm 2. And in Psalm 2 the Father God says, "I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain." And by way of prophecy He says, "The day is coming when I will send the Anointed One, the Messiah, and He will take His place on Mount Zion as King."

This is the fulfillment of that. This should be exhilarating, overwhelming, captivating for every Jew who has ever hoped for the fulfillment of Psalm 2, a Messiah who would come and ultimately reign as king, planting His feet on Mount Zion. Psalm 48 says, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. In the city of our God, His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King."

Things to learn: 1) the fate of the 144,000 2) Proclamations from Heaven 3) The Lord's Harvest on Earth

Discussion questions:

1) What can we learn about the Lamb and the 144,000 in verses 1 to 5 of chapter 14?

Q2. Are there warnings or blessings that we should heed from the angels proclamations in verses 6 to 13 of chapter 14?

Q3. How would you respond to the grim ending described in verses 14 to 20 of chapter 14?