

REVELATION
CHAPTER FOURTEEN
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- I. **Revelation 14:1 (NASB)** *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mt. Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*
- A. “Then”
1. John’s already given the bad news
 - a. Dragon, Sea Beast, Land Beast, all arrayed against the church
 - b. now he’s going to pause and give some comfort
- B. “standing on Mt. Zion”
1. **Psalms 2:1-7 (CSBBible)** ¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed One: ³ "Let's tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us." ⁴ The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them. ⁵ Then he speaks to them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath: ⁶ "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." ⁷ I will declare the Lord's decree. He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.
 2. a perfect symbol of the church of Jesus Christ
 3. enthroned as King of Kings, ruler of all nations
- C. “one hundred and forty-four thousand”
1. **Revelation 7:4 (HCSB)** ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:
- D. “foreheads”
1. the Christians have their own seal
 - a. as those with the mark of the beast have on their forehead
 2. **Revelation 3:12 (CSBBible)** "The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God — the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God — and my new name.
 - a. this verse also shows that the name of the FATHER and of the SON are on Xns’ foreheads
 - i. Revelation 14:1, the Father and the Son’s name is on the Christian’s forehead
 - ii. Revelation 3:12, the Father’s name and the Son’s name is on the Christian’s forehead
A/ although forehead is not explicitly mentioned
 - b. note: what the seal of the 144,000 in Revelation 7 actually is not mentioned in Rev 7
- II. **Revelation 14:2-3 (NASB)** *And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. (v3) And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth [land].*
- A. “voice”
1. of God the Father

- B. “they” (v3)
 - 1. options
 - a. 144,000 (Gill)
 - i. in favor
 - A/ only the 144,000 knew the words (v3), the heavenly harpers didn’t
 - b. the heavenly harpers of Revelation 14:2 (Ellicott)(Alford)
 - i. in favor
 - A/ the harpers are in heaven, the 144,000 are on Mt. Zion on the land (J. Hampton Keathley)
- B. “new song”
 - 1. need a new song for a new covenant, for a new creation
- C. “learn”
 - 1. only Christians can sing the new covenant song
- D. “land”
 - 1. the 144,000 were *Jewish* Christians
 - a. who were purchased from Israel (the “land”)

III. **Revelation 14:4 (NASB)** *These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.*

- A. “defiled”
 - 1. a *symbol* for spiritual purity
 - a. if it were literal, there wouldn’t be any women in the 144,000
 - i. because these are said to not be defiled with “women”
 - 2. “virgin” is often used in OT to describe Zion
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **2 Kings 19:21 (CSBBible)** This is the word the Lord has spoken against him: Virgin Daughter Zion despises you and scorns you; Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head behind your back.
 - ii. See Chilton, p. 356 for many more examples
- B. “first fruits”
 - 1. appropriate for a preterist interpretation
 - a. but how do the futurists handle it
 - i. they all have the 144,000 as “last fruits” at the END of history
 - b. after Jewish Christians (144,000 as first fruits) are sealed, Gentile Christians enter the kingdom
 - i. **Revelation 7:9 (CSBBible)** After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

IV. **Revelation 14:5 (NASB)** *And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.*

- A. “lie”
 - 1. **Zephaniah 3:12-13 (CSBBible)** ¹²I will leave a meek and humble people among you, and they will take refuge in the name of the Lord. ¹³The remnant of Israel will no longer do wrong or tell lies; a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will pasture and lie down, with nothing to make them afraid.

- V. **Revelation 14:6-7 (CSBBible)** *Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, with the eternal gospel to announce to the inhabitants of the earth— to every nation, tribe, language, and people.⁷ He spoke with a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."*
- A. "another"
1. as compared to many, many angels who've already appeared in Revelation so far
- B. "angel"
1. this is the first angel in this scene
 2. note the related duties of the three angels (DT)
 - a. first angel
 - i. preaches the eternal gospel to all the earth
 - b. second angel (v8)
 - i. announces fall of apostate Israel
 - c. third angel (v9)
 - i. announces doom on those who follow Roman Empire
- C. "overhead"
1. KJV → "midst of heaven"
 2. the angel cried woe to the *Land* from midheaven
 - a. Rev 8:13 "¹³ And I beheld, and heard an angel [NASB: eagle] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"
 - b. but this angel is crying salvation to the whole world
 - i. before the gospel can be spread to the whole world, there must be judgment on the Land
- D. "announce" (KJV → "preach")
1. before the end came in AD 70, gospel was preached to all the world
 - a. just as Jesus predicted in the Olivet Discourse
 - i. **Matthew 24:14 (CSBBible)** This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
 - b. Scriptures
 - i. **Romans 1:8 (CSBBible)** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world.
 - ii. **Romans 10:18 (CSBBible)** But I ask, "Did they not hear?" Yes, they did: Their voice has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world.
 - iii. **Colossians 1:5-6 (CSBBible)** ⁵ because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace.
 - iv. **Colossians 1:23 (CSBBible)** if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.
 - v. **Acts 17:6 (CSBBible)** When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too,

- E. “earth”
 - 1. here, it’s “earth” and not “land”
 - a. because of “every nation, tribe, language, and people”
 - i. “first to Judea, then to Samaria, then to the uttermost parts of the earth”
- F. “judgment”
 - 1. the 7 trumpets were *proclamations* of judgment (Chilton)
 - a. the bowls are *applications* of judgment

VI. Revelation 14:8 (NASB) *And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.”*

- A. “Babylon”
 - 1. Preterists split on whether this is Rome or Jerusalem
 - a. in favor of Rome
 - i. **1 Peter 5:13 (CSBBible)** She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, as does Mark, my son.
 - A/ tradition says that Peter was in Rome when he wrote I Peter
 - 1/ according to tradition, he was martyred there
 - 2/ contra
 - a/ Peter probably in Jerusalem, since he lived and had his ministry in Jerusalem
 - i/ [Scriptures, p. 362, Chilton]
 - b/ Peter at end of I Peter sends greetings from Mark and Silas (I Pet 5:12,13)
 - i/ Mark and Silas lived in Jerusalem, not Rome
 - b. in favor of Babylon
 - i. see under “great” below
 - B. “Great”
 - 1. Scriptures showing Babylon the *Great* is Jerusalem
 - a. **Revelation 11:8 (CSBBible)** Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
 - 2. Scriptures showing that Babylon is the “great city”
 - a. **Revelation 14:8 (CSBBible)** And another, a second angel, followed, saying, "It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen. She made all the nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath."
 - i. some translations have “great city” for “great”
 - A/ but the Greek does not have “city”
 - b. **Revelation 16:19 (CSBBible)** The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God's presence; he gave her the cup filled with the wine of his fierce anger.
 - 3. Logic showing Babylon the Great is (apostate) Jerusalem
 - a. The “great city” is Jerusalem (Revelation 11:8)
 - b. The “great city” is Babylon the Great (Revelation 16:19)
 - c. Therefore, Jerusalem is Babylon the Great
 - i. two things (Jerusalem, Babylon the Great) equal to the same thing (“great city”) are equal
 - C. “make all the nations”
 - 1. Israel’s spiritual influence over all the nations accompanied with her great commercial influence
 - a. **Revelation 18:11-13 (HCSB)** ¹¹ The merchants of the earth will also weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their merchandise any longer— ¹² merchandise of gold, silver, precious

stones, and pearls; fine fabrics of linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of fragrant wood products; objects of ivory; objects of expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble; ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, olive oil, fine wheat flour, and grain; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and slaves and human lives.

D. “passion” (“heat”)

1. the whore inflames the nations to lust after her
 - a. **Romans 2:17 (CSBBible)** Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the law, and boast in God, **Romans 2:19 (CSBBible)** and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, **Romans 2:24 (CSBBible)** For, as it is written: The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.
 - i. the nations desire to abandon the one who truly loves them because of Israel
 - A/ they looked to the Jews as the holders of the oracles of God for instruction
 - a/ and they got seduced by Babylon
 - i/ whose primary occupation is seducing others into fornication
 - A) the worship of false gods
 - b/ consider all the God-fearers and Judaizer who would go to a Jewish synagogue
2. Scripture
 - a. **Revelation 17:2 (HCSB)** ² The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who live on the earth became drunk on the wine of her sexual immorality.”
3. contrast 144,000 Jewish believers who are pure
 - a. **Revelation 14:4 (HCSB)** ⁴ These are the ones not defiled with women, for they have kept their virginity. . .

VII. **Revelation 14:9-11 (NASB)** *Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, (v10) he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (v11) “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”*

A. “beast”

1. Chilton
 - a. the Land Beast
 - i. he’s the one who causes the mark to be given so no one could buy or sell (13:17)
 - ii. mention right here after Babylon the Great more evidence for Babylon = Jerusalem
 - iii. if Chilton right, “his image” is the land beast’s image of the *sea* beast (not land beast)
2. Trotter
 - a. sounds like the *sea* beast to me

B. “wine of the wrath of God”

1. Moses Stuart, *A Commentary on the Apocalypse*, 1845, p297f
 - a. “God is often said to give the cup of inflammation or indignation to nations whom He is about to destroy... Persons intoxicated are unable to ... resist those that assail them... so [they are] devoted to irremedial destruction.”

C. “smoke of their torment”

1. taken from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone
 - a. **Genesis 19:28 (CSBBible)** He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace.

D. “Lamb”

1. John feels no embarrassment to see Jesus, meek and mild as a lamb, watch his enemies roast in hell
2. **Revelation 6:16 (HCSB)** ¹⁶ And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb,

VIII. **Revelation 14:12-13 (NASB)** *Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (v13) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”*

A. “Here”

1. the perseverance is the fact that saints are blessed who die in the Lord
 - a. if one does not fear losing his life, there is not much that can make him afraid

B. "rest"

1. as opposed to the Beast worshipers, who have no rest day and night (14:11)
 - a. **Revelation 14:11 (CSBBible)** and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or anyone who receives the mark of its name.
2. the saints rest when they die

IX. **Revelation 14:14-16 (NASB)** *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a Son of Man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. (v15) And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth [land] is ripe." (v16) Then he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth [land], and the earth [land] was reaped.*

A. "cloud" (v14)

1. the Shekinah glory cloud

B. "Son of Man" (v14)

1. messianic term for Jesus
2. **Daniel 7:13-14 (CSBBible)** ¹³I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. ¹⁴He was given dominion, and glory, and a kingdom; so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

a. John shows Jesus already "sitting" on the throne, after the coming up to receive his throne

3. origin of the term

- a. In Old Babylonian, the phrase "son of man" meant heir to royalty
 - i. So, when Daniel used the term (only relevant time in the OT), the term was functionally equivalent to saying that the one like a son of man is rightful heir and successor to the divine throne
- b. every time Jesus used it of himself, he was essentially saying, "I am God. And I will inherit a kingdom, and have dominion forever and ever. And I will establish that kingdom by 'coming on the clouds' (Dan 7:13) in judgment upon my enemies."

C. "golden crown" (v14)

- a. represents Jesus' kingship

D. "angel" (v15)

1. three angels have already made proclamations to the Land (Revelation 14:6-13)
 - a. listed
 - i. 1st angel → gospel to all the world
 - ii. 2^d angel → Fallen is apostate Israel (Babylon the Great)
 - iii. 3^d angel → Those with mark of sea beast (Rome) are doomed
 - b. three more are going to later perform symbolic actions over the Land (15, 17-20)
 - i. listed
 - A/ 4th angel (v15) → calls Jesus to reap the land
 - B/ 5th angel (vv17,19) → helps Jesus to reap the land
 - C 6th angel (v18) → has authority over fire

E. "hour"

1. sounds like the "hour of judgment" in v 7

- a. **Revelation 14:7 (CSBBible)** He spoke with a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

i. spoken right before the second angel

A/ who said, "Fallen is Babylon the Great" (apostate Israel)

F. "harvest"

1. options

a. believers (Chilton)

- i. **Matthew 9:37-38 (CSBBible)** ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

A/ this would fit Revelation 14:6

- 1/ **Revelation 14:6 (CSBBible)** Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, with the eternal gospel to announce to the inhabitants of the earth — to every nation, tribe, language, and people.

b. evil people living on the land of Israel (DT)

i. this would fit Revelation 14:19

A/ **Revelation 14:19 (CSBBible)** So the angel swung his sickle at the earth and gathered the grapes from the vineyard of the earth [land], and he threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

ii. if so, "ge" would be "land," not "earth"

X. **Revelation 14:17-18 (NASB)** *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. (v18) Then another angel, the one who has the power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called out with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth [land], because her grapes are ripe."*

A. "Fire"

1. lit., "THE fire"

- a. i.e., the fire burning on the altar of incense

B. "altar"

1. golden altar of incense

C. "angel" w/ "power over fire"

1. the same one who, at prayer of the saints, threw coals of fire from the altar to the land

- a. martyred saints prayed for vengeance at the altar of incense [Chilton, !!!!]

i. Rev 6:9-10 ⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the ALTAR the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

A/ [problem: how do we know it's not the BRONZE altar?]

ii. in response, the angel with power over the fire threw coals down to the land

A/ Rev 8:3-5 ³ And another angel came and stood at the ALTAR, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much INCENSE, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the GOLDEN ALTAR which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of

the INCENSE, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵ And the angel took the censer, and filled it with FIRE OF THE ALTAR, and cast *it* into the earth [LAND]: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”

D. “grapes”

1. the “grapes of wrath”

- a. the grapes which because of God’s wrath will be trampled in his winepress

E. “vine of the Land”

1. refers to Israel

- a. Isa 5:1-7 “¹ Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his VINEYARD. My wellbeloved hath a VINEYARD in a very fruitful hill: ² And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my VINEYARD. ⁴ What could have been done more to my VINEYARD, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? ⁵ And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my VINEYARD: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall thereof, and it shall be TRODDEN DOWN: ⁶ And I will LAY IT WASTE: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the VINEYARD OF THE LORD OF HOSTS *IS* THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.”

- i. Isaiah tells us plainly that Israel, the vineyard of God, will be utterly judged

A/ [this is judgment by Babylon, or Assyria]

1/ just as Israel was judged before, Israel will be judged again

XI. Revelation 14:19-20 (NASB) *So the angel swung his sickle to the earth [land] and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth [land], and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. (v20) And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles [sixteen hundred stadia].*

A. “vine”

1. adds to the “land” metaphor

- a. describes Israel like “land” does

2. **Isaiah 63:1-6 (HCSB)** ¹ Who is this coming from Edom in crimson-stained garments from Bozrah— this One who is splendid in His apparel, rising up proudly in His great might? It is I, proclaiming vindication, powerful to save. ² Why are Your clothes red, and Your garments like one who treads a winepress? ³ I trampled the winepress alone, and no one from the nations was with Me. I trampled them in My anger and ground them underfoot in My fury; their blood spattered My garments, and all My clothes were stained. ⁴ For I planned the day of vengeance, and the year of My redemption came. ⁵ I looked, but there was no one to help, and I was amazed that no one assisted; so My arm accomplished victory for Me, and My wrath assisted Me. ⁶ I crushed nations in My anger; I made them drunk with My wrath and poured out their blood on the ground.

- B. “two hundred miles”
 - 1. Gk., “sixteen hundred stadia”
 - a. symbolic
 - i. four squared times ten squared
 - A/ “four”
 - 1/ represents length and breadth of the Land
 - B/ “ten”
 - 1/ “largeness”
 - 2. actually, Palestine is just slightly less than this length literally
- C. “outside”
 - 1. the whole land, except for Jerusalem, was covered with fire and blood during the years leading up to the siege
 - a. Jerusalem wasn’t affected at first, because of its walls