

Revelation Chapter 14.

Chapter 14 KJV

Bill Holdstock

Verse 1.

And I looked and lo a Lamb stood on the mount Sion and with him an hundred forty and four thousand having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

We have read in a previous chapter that the 144,000 have been taken to heaven and now John sees these 144,000 on mount Sion standing with the Lamb, Jesus. The Lamb, referring to Christ confirms our redemption at the cross; this title is used some 28 times in the book of Revelation. Thank God for the Lamb who took away our sins at Calvary. This scene is a heavenly one and it would appear there is a mount Sion in heaven too. This company were sealed with the Father's name in their foreheads and protected through the trumpet judgements (7:1-3.) and caught up as the man-child (12: 5) and are now singing and playing harps before the throne, and before the four Zoa or living creatures, and before the 24 elders having been redeemed from the earth and from among men. These were the first fruits from Israel unto God after the rapture of the church.

Verse 2

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.

This worship being offered is tranquil and pleasant like the sound of many waters, like a running brook but also mixed with thunder portraying seriousness, effort, sincerity and exuberance. Is this typical of the worship in the modern church of today?

Verse 3

And they sang as it were a new song before the throne and the four beasts and the Elders.

This new song is not so much that the words have not been sung before, but that what it says can only be sung by those who have experienced the new words in the song, such as the 144,000 newly redeemed from Israel.

Verse 4

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

At first reading one could think these were all men...*not being defiled by women*, the next statement... *they were all virgins* could lead us to believe they were all women. The idea is to show purity of character, they are saved men and women who have not contaminated themselves with the idolatrous and immoral religious system of the great whore of chapter 17 which we will come to later. By the time of the end a religious, economic, and a one world governmental system will rise which will be totally against God and these born again Jews and Gentiles out of Israel will have overcome the whore's temptations and will have been found worthy of the Kingdom of God.

... These are they who follow the Lamb where ever He goes. These were redeemed from among men being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

These few will have done their best to follow the Lord and His commands, keep clean and pure hearts before Him in the midst of increasing hardship and persecution when all about them is falling into Satan's hands. Some think there is much persecution today but in the days of the Antichrist ruled by Satan, who believes it is a time for 'all or nothing' and throws at the world his very worst, it will be very difficult indeed to stay close to the Lamb of the cross and these men and women, and the 144,000 will be numbered among the overcomers and those that have endured unto the end, as we are

all exalted to do. These overcomers now stand with Christ in heaven on Mount Sion, glorified with Him who made our Salvation from Satan possible.

Verse 6. 7.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people. Saying with a loud voice, fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgement is come; and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and sea, and the fountains of waters.

There are three angels in the next few verses that come to or near the earth with their own special message; this first one comes with the message of the Gospel. The Gospel of this angel is a bit different to the Gospel we preach today in that our message is that the hour of Judgement is coming. The Gospel of this angel is that the judgement of God is come, it is now, and there is no more time to waste. This angel preaches this 'now' gospel to every nation, kindred and tongue, no one will not have heard the Gospel, and everyone will be given the opportunity to accept Christ as their Saviour. Millions will accept Him and live, millions will reject Him and die.

All this will happen in the end of the last 3 ½ years of this age. God in His love and compassion will give everyone living in these last few days a last chance to accept Him as Lord and Saviour. I believe this will be a literal Angel causing quite a stir as he flies round the earth, our verse says he has a loud voice which he will use to warn men and women everywhere that judgement is at hand. Don't forget that television will make this all the more spectacular.

Verse 8

And there followed another angel saying Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Babylon was once a great city and where the Jews were held captive for 70 years. This city was the capital of the ancient land of Babylonia in the south of Mesopotamia on the great river Euphrates. It had tremendous wealth and power and its vast size and grand appearance made it a Biblical myth until its foundations were unearthed and its riches substantiated in the 19 century. Archaeologists stood in awe as their discoveries were unearthed confirming the stories of the Bible proving them to be real and true and as the Bible records.

Read Isaiah chapter 13 to see some of the predictions concerning this great city that stagger the imagination. The name Babylon is also called Akkadian or 'Babilani' which means 'The gate of gods' so this beautiful man-made structure became the pride of man and they called this city Babylon. The Hebrew name Babel also comes from the word Babylon and the Bible confirms that Babel means 'confusion' brought about by godlessness. (Gen 11:9).

Nimrod, Noah's son was the instigator of the building of the Tower of Babel and in his audacity and arrogance wanted the top to reach unto heaven. This caused God to come down and confuse their languages and make them stop building and He scattered them. Confusion became a part of their life in the city of Babylon. God caused disruption in their Godless plans to build a tower to heaven, and dispersed them far and wide for hundreds of miles each side of the Great River Euphrates. Even so they became temple-centered and made a system of gods each with its own temple in the city of Babylon. There was the god Anu the god of heaven, Enlil the god of the air, Enki the god of the sea, Shamash the sun god, Sin the Moongod, Istar the god of love and war, Adad the god of storms. The Amorites promoted the god of Marduk at the city of Babylon, so that he became the chief god of the Babylonian religion about 1100 BC. Each had their own priests of different levels responsible for many different elaborate festivals, there were priests trained in divination, exorcizing and some were trained to drive away evil spirits! This shows just how far away they were from the heart of the one true God, with so many gods to worship and temples to go to and the use of evil spirits to drive away evil spirits no wonder they disappointed the God of heaven that He made them confused. This little bit of Babylonian history is given to show that Babylon, with a temple on every street corner attracted worshipers from very many, miles around. Babylon is a city that shows us that religion can only confuse us and not lead us to the one true God. Can you imagine the confusion of the city when an angel flew over whole area telling everyone that Babylon has fallen? Their faith, their many gods had

gone, their temples, their priests, their strength, their beliefs, their commercial structure, and their hope had fallen to the ground as rubble.

And there followed another angel saying ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Thank God our hope, our faith; our strength is steadfast in Jesus, God’s Son.

The Bible indicates that all false religion has its roots from the land of Babylon and in the last days that spirit of Babylon will have to be dealt with by the Lord. The last part of verse 8 tells us that great city made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

This great city was to the Babylonians and the peoples all around as London or New York is to us today. What chaos would erupt if tomorrow’s front page newspapers reported that London was no more or New York had fallen to the ground! If the financial, industrial, economical, legal, justice and moral fabric of the land that relies on the proper function of the other stops, it will reduce that city to nothing. This was the shock felt as Babylon ‘that great city’ fell, so shocked were they that the news was told twice, Babylon is fallen, is fallen. Why, because in her greatness and her power she made all the nations associated with her drink of the wrath of her fornication.

Verse 9

And a third angel followed them with a loud voice saying , if any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, or his hand. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture (undiluted) into the cup of his indignation, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Is it any wonder that God will be so full of wrath for those that ignore His written word, and His spoken word? Having sent three of His angels to tour every part of the world to tell His created beings just how much He loves them, and to offer them the cross whereby they can have forgiveness of sin? There will probably be many multitudes of Christian men and women who will receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and others given the ability to do miracles of healing as did the disciples of Jesus. But just as the people rejected the two witnesses, and the message of the three angels they will also reject God’s outstretched arms of love and forgiveness.

Verse 9

And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

This is only one of the many scriptures that teach eternal torment of the wicked (20:10-15. 21:8. 22:15. Isa, 66: 22-24. Mt 8:12. 13:39-50).

We cannot comprehend the thought of eternal death, eternal burning in eternal hell. We have been so used to our preachers telling us just how much God loves us so much that He died for us and took our place on the cross. We have been lulled into a spiritual drowsiness, thinking that God is so wonderful and kind that all is well and one day we will wake up in His loving arms and be with Him for ever. There is another side to our loving God. In life we do not like to be taken for granted, neither does God. He has given us pages and pages of the Bible, Books, tapes and newspapers. He has provided hours and hours of preaching, talking and conversation in churches in halls, in football stadiums, in the home and on television day and night. He wants us to make no mistake about His offer of Salvation from the consequences of sin. We are reading about the end times and what will happen to those who will still reject Jesus Christ and it’s not nice!

And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

This verse tells us that the Holy Angels will be able to see the torment of those in fire and brimstone; also they will suffer in the presence of the Lamb! The loving, caring, Saviour who died for all mankind to save them from the very torment we are talking about right now. Those who are in that everlasting torment have rejected the offer of Salvation, they have said NO to Jesus, and now they are

tormented with fire and brimstone for ever and can be seen by the angels and the Lamb. There are many scriptures that tell us there will be certain places where those saved by the grace of God will also be able to see those in hell in their torment.

Isaiah 66 v 24 (read the Chapter to keep in context).

And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men who have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die neither shall fire be quenched and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Read Luke 16v19-31

A horrific story of a man who ignored the message of the Gospel all his life and when his time came to meet his Lord he found himself in hell. In verse 22 and 23 shows how quick that transaction was. Verse 22 says the rich man died and was buried. Verse 23 says and the very next words were...*in hell he lifted up his eyes*. The story goes on that he had a conversation with Abraham, he could see him, he could reason with him, but all to no avail. The pleas and reasoning was not allowed, Abraham said all your pleading will not change the choice you have made; you did not want Jesus in life so you have not got Him in death and your choice means everlasting torment in hell while Lazarus chose Jesus and is comforted in heaven.

These scriptures and this story show us we will be able to see the suffering and torment of those in hell...if we wanted to. If they were our loved ones we may not want to see their suffering, but it will be an everlasting monument to the wrath of God on sin.

Verse 11

And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receives the mark of his name.

If these words disturb you then you need to bow your knee to God's son Jesus Christ and ask Him into your life to be sure of an eternal life with Jesus. What we are reading is God's word and not mine; it is in the part of the Bible that is not read in church much today. I know a Pastor who was asked by some in his congregation for teaching on the second coming of Christ and he said "I don't know enough about it" Neither did I until I started to study the book with you guys and together we have read the book and we are getting to know it. Pastors can do the same. I know another Pastor who was asked the same question and he said to me "If preached Revelation I would lose most of my congregation it's a frightening book" If we don't know the Bible, if we are not taught the Bible then where would we get this information and enlightenment from, we would have no knowledge on which to base our choice of Salvation. On the judgement day you will not be able to say "sorry I did not know" the Gospel of Jesus Christ is alive in the Bible.

Dare I say Pastors and Leaders have an obligation to teach the flock that God has put into their hands the whole Bible and that includes Revelation not just the interesting stories? The Bible says we should know the times and seasons in which we live. What we are studying now should not disturb us if we belong to Christ. That is why we should read the Bible and the plan of Salvation: Jesus died that we should accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. At a given point known only to the Father Jesus will come and take His followers home to be with Him that is called the rapture. All that we have studied from Chapter 1 onwards, and after the rapture, the Bible says we should know about. If we know what will happen in the end times we can warn our friends and others and encourage them to avoid these bad times. We can also show these scriptures to those that are hungry for them in the church, show them to your leaders and study them together.

In Ezekiel Chapter 3 God told Ezekiel to eat the scroll which is the word of God. He was told to get its words into his belly, or really get to know what he is reading. This was not for Ezekiel's benefit but for the benefit of those God would put across Ezekiel's path. I would like you all to read the whole chapter, but in a nutshell God says He has made us watchmen to warn the world of God's pending wrath. This is what God said;

18. *When I tell you to warn the wicked and say you shall die and you give him no warning and he dies, his blood will I require at your hand and I will blame you!*

19. *If I warn the wicked and you have warned him and he rejects me and dies, because you have warned him I will not blame you.*

I recommend you read the whole chapter, those that God has put in positions of responsibility in Church as God's messengers must warn the wicked and give them the choice, yes they must choose and if they choose Hell you will not be blamed. We all must be able to tell the inquirer about Revelation particularly if they ask. It's not acceptable to God if the wicked asked you and you said "I don't know much about that book, it's not a nice book anyway" or "if I preached about Revelation I would lose a lot of my congregation?" That would be the choice that they will make, according to the Bible they will spend eternity in Hell. No I don't like it either but that is what God says and I don't want to argue with God. God says if they die and I have not told them about His Son Jesus He will blame me" wow!

Verse 12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yes says the Spirit that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

These verses are an encouragement to saints who will be killed in the future tribulation (6: 9-11. 7: 9-11). There are three characteristics of the tribulation saint.

1. Patience in suffering.

When the fifth seal was opened the first of the tribulation martyrs of Daniels 70th week was shown to be under the altar, killed for the preaching of the word of God and waiting for God to bring an end to all things. They cried "How long O Lord, before you avenge us"

2. Keeping the commandments.

Though all around them is war, torment, troubles, great temptation and wickedness under the hand of Satan and the Antichrist, and the difficulty of buying food for their families because they refused to take the mark of the beast, they kept God's commandments. Today we are not under the threat of Antichrist and his mark, today, in the Western world at least, we can buy and sell, we can buy food and drink for our families, but do we keep the commandments of God as we should? These Saints were honoured of God for their obedience.

3. Keeping the faith of Jesus.

I am amazed when I see the football games at the weekend. I am disappointed when I see grown men cry that their team have lost, I see fathers and sons, side by side in tears when the other side are winning! I see shouts of joy and happiness when their side scores a goal. I like a good game of football along with the rest of them but I am so very disappointed when I see so much emotion and faith given to a football game. They call it the beautiful game, but it is surrounded with corruption, and so much money thrown at it when half the world is starving. I will stop right here before I really make some enemies of my football readers, and I do not want to do that but there is a lot of miss placed faith with some football fans.

I suppose it is where your heart is that is the point, if your heart and mind is so wrapped up in the game it becomes a kind of drug and that is all you live for. Of course football may not be your only god, only you and God know what you put in place of Jesus. Verse 13 says that many gave their hearts and even their lives for the sake of the Gospel. They would not take the mark of the Antichrist on their body and were killed for their decision but the Lord called them blessed and gave them rest for their labours and their works for Christ followed them, they were not lost to God he has all our works in His hands and they are blessed for eternity.

Do you remember the accusation of the three Jews who would not bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's image. Do you remember that they were put into the fiery furnace; do you

remember the Lord saved them from death by fire, and made them, not only rich in this world's goods but also in heavenly things that count most. There is no question about it God is no man's debtor and the rewards that God gives will last forever.

Verse 14

And I looked and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like the Son of man having on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Here is the Lord Jesus Christ sitting on a white cloud, white denotes purity and cloud denotes glory. Son of man refers to the humanity of Christ which points to the cross, and on His head is a golden crown which presents a victor's crown and in His hand is a sharp sickle with which the Lord will reap at the Battle of Armageddon.

Verse 15

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, thrust in your sickle for the time is come for you to reap for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped.

This angel came out of the temple in heaven and cried with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud. The excitement in heaven is almost at boiling point! I believe the host of heaven, the newly arrived and those that have been in heaven for centuries, like my Mum and Dad and Grandparents, who have been with the Lord only a few years compared to Moses and Sarah, David and Daniel, Mary mother of Jesus watching her son with a tinge of pride, Peter, James, and of course John who saw all this in a vision in the first place. All of heaven shouted and sang praise to the King on the white cloud as He travelled with a sharp sickle towards the Battle of Armageddon. The atmosphere over the enemy's camp is getting darker and thicker with sin and wickedness rising up against Him Who sits on the white cloud, but it is all in vain, the victor is coming the reaping will begin.

The angel cried with a loud encouraging voice "*Thrust in your sickle and reap for the time has come for you to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe*" After all the waiting for thousands of years, all the preaching, the praying, the millions of songs written with the Gospel message, the Gospel TV programs 24 hours a day, the time has come for the victorious Lord of heaven and earth to reap and the harvest is victory. I guess even the Lord has a song in His heart. He knows the outcome, He knows at last sin and wickedness, the trademark of Satan will be put away forever. I also guess, because He is still the God of love, His thoughts and great disappointment are with the billions of souls who have rejected Him and are on their way to a lost eternity to burn in Hell.

Many angels have come from the heavenly Temple to assist the Lord in this glorious yet horrendous occasion. One of the angels came with a sharp sickle another one in charge of the fire on the heavenly altar came down and cried with a loud voice encouraging the one with the sharp sickle to thrust His sharp sickle into the ripe earth and gather the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe. I believe the state of the world, its sin and degradation in the heart of man will, at that time not be allowed get any worse. Man has proved time and time again he cannot be trusted to keep pure and holy before his God. Throughout the centuries man has rebelled against the one true God of love, who was crucified on a Roman cross for the sins of the world, but men rejected Him, they said NO to the Saviour! The ripeness of the world this sickle was to reap was such that the world had reached its maximum and could not get any more sinful, bear in mind all influence of good, truth, and righteousness had been taken up out of the way at the Rapture.

Verse 19

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city and blood came out of the winepress even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Those that were gathered being 'the vine of the earth' are the assembled nations under the leadership of the Antichrist to war against the Jews in Israel and to destroy the city of Jerusalem. The vine of the earth in the Hebrew tongue is called Armageddon. This great winepress of the wrath of God was the

battlefield of Armageddon and it is here the angel thrust in his sickle to reap the wicked and take them to this battlefield. The battle will be ferocious the millions and millions of war hungry men syked up under the influence of Satan himself.

Blood will flow on this battlefield and will reach up to the horses bridles which are about six feet high and will spread about 175 miles wide. This river of blood will come from the veins of the multitudes slain, the hail, the blood; overflowing rain from heaven will make this the day of all days, the worst in history.

You know the more I read and study this book the more I feel blessed I am a Christian, When my wife read over these pages she said I am very glad I won't be here this is awful. I said Amen.

I am grateful to my friend Graham Towse for his valuable support and contribution.

Be blessed

Bill@Holdstock.com

More studies on Google, www.wordlightmypath.com