

Revelation Chapter Fourteen

- Chapters 14 and 15 continue the broad pictures that are being shaped to depict the entire Tribulation.
 - Chapters 12 and 13 show us Tribulation characters on earth – the Woman, the Dragon and the two Beasts.
 - Chapters 14 and 15 focus on heavenly activity.
- Chapter 14 begins with a vision of Jesus Christ on Mt. Zion with the 144,000 at the 2nd Advent [14:1].
 - These are the same 144,000 we saw in chapter 7.
 - They were sealed by the Son and the Father [7:3].
 - They were purchased from the earth [14:3 cp. 5:9].
- John then hears a sound from heaven like many waters (God – Rev 1:15), loud thunder (the four living creatures – Rev 6:1), and harpists playing (the elders – Rev 5:8) [14:2].
- A new song is sung before the heavenly throne, the four living creatures and the elders [14:3 cp. 5:9].
 - This verse says the 144,000 are able learn the song, but does not say that they are the ones singing.
 - This could be the multitude of Tribulational martyrs we saw in Rev 7:9ff.
- More details are given concerning the 144,000 [14:4-5].
 - They remain unmarried and virgins which will likely strengthened their witness [14:4 cp. 1 Pet 3:13-17].
 - They will follow the Lamb in the Kingdom [14:4].
 - They are called first fruits, indicating that they are among the first people to get saved during the Tribulation [14:4].
 - They remain true and blameless even in the midst of great Satanic influence during the Tribulation [14:5].
- A series of angels are involved in giving a heavenly perspective of the Tribulation [14:6-20].
 - The first angel proclaims world-wide evangelism with a view to the impending judgment [14:6-7].
 - The second angel declares the end of Babylon [14:8] – this will be described in chapters 17 and 18.

- The third angel declares judgment of the wicked [14:9-11] and blessing for the righteous [14:12-13].
- Additional angels participate in a reaping process under Christ's direction [14:14-20].
- Christ reaps the first harvest [14:16 cp. Matt 24:31].
- One of the angels reaps the second harvest [14:19 cp. Matt 13:36-43].
 - In contrast to the first harvest where Christ gathers the elect, this harvest involves the removal of the wicked.
 - The blood up to the horses' bridles for a distance of about 180 miles gives a graphic description of the destruction that comes upon these "tares".