

## Revelation 14

### 13.1-10: Sign 5 – The Beast from the Sea

Daniel 7.1-7

Blasphemous titles – akin to *dominus et deus* – ‘lord and god’; and ‘*divus*’ (‘divine’) on Roman coinage

God alone must be worshipped – Exodus 20.2-7; Deut. 6.13

The Antichrist – why is this Beast traditionally called by the name?

Daniel 8.10-13 – the desecration of the sanctuary of YHWH

What will this Beast do? How will people respond?

Lamb’s Book of Life – Exodus 32.32-33; Psalm 69.27-28; Philipp. 4.3; Election and Foreknowledge

10 Jeremiah 15.2; 43.11

### 13.11-18: Sign 6 – The Beast from the Earth – the False Prophet

Leading others astray – Deut. 13.1-2; Mark 13.21-23

‘image of the beast’ – recalls the sculpture erected by Nebuchadrazzar of Babylon (Daniel 3.3-6)

The Brand and the Number – ‘6’ is just short of ‘7’, the symbolic perfect number

### 14.1-5: The Song of the Redeemed

An earthly scene, a heavenly scene, or both?

‘the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion’ – see Ps. 2.6-12

Zion – 150 times in OT

144,000 ‘purchased out of the earth’ – 7.4-8; same group? Symbolism of the number – 12x12

‘the number connotes the completeness of God’s people, in antithesis to the 666’ (Beale 733)

5.9 – ‘(the lamb) *purchased* for God by your blood some from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation’

The ‘new song’ – an expression of praise in the OT for God’s victory (Ps. 33.3; 40.3; 96.1; 98.1)

3-5 Describe the 144,000. Note that Israelite soldiers were required to pursue ceremonial purity before battle (Deut. 23.9-10; 1 Samuel 21.5; 2 Samuel 11.8-11).

‘Following the Lamb’ – Matt.8.19; 10.38; Mark 8.34; Luke 9.57; 1 Peter 2.21-22

‘Firstfruits’ – the first of best of what we have; also used of new converts in the NT (Rom. 16.5; 1 Cor. 16.15)

‘no lie on the tongue’ – description of prophesied Messiah in Isaiah 53.9

'blameless' – hyperbole for being demonstrably holy

## **14.6-13: Message of the Three Angels**

### **6-7: First Angel with the Eternal Gospel**

'fear God and give Him glory' – addressed to the 'earth dwellers' who chose the Dragon (11.10; 13.8-14)

A final chance for the wicked to repent and turn to God

'Fear God' – Deut. 31.12; 1 Sam. 12.14, 24; Ps. 34.11; 16.24; 2 Cor. 5.11; Phil. 2.12; 1 Peter 1.17

'Give God Glory' – 1 Chron. 16.24; Ps. 22.23; Isa. 24.15; Rom. 15.6; 1 Peter 2.12)

### **8: Second Angel Predicting Destruction**

The Ruin of the Evil one prophesied, as in Isaiah 21.9 ('Babylon has fallen, fallen')

Rome as Babylon – 1 Peter 5.13; 2 Baruch 11.1; 67.7; 79.1

### **9-11: Third Angel Pronounces Judgment on those who Follow the Beast**

Beast followers – 13.16. How will they experience God's wrath?

Sulfur/ Brimstone – a type of asphalt found in volcanic deposits producing intense heat and a bad smell

Used to describe suffering under God's judgment – Gen. 19.24; Deut. 29.23; Job 18.15; Isa. 30.33; Ezek. 38.22

Luke 12.9: Jesus says, 'He who disowns me before people will be disowned before the angels of God.'

Who is bearing this wrath of YHWH? Those who have killed the saints (6.9-11), worshipped the beast (13.4-15) and rejected God (9.20-21; 14.6-7, 9-10)

### **12-13: The Call for Endurance**

How are believers described here?

What does this mean – 'Their deeds follow them?' 1 Timothy 5.24-25; Luke 6.43-45

## **14.14-20: The Reapers**

Joel 3.13: 'Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow – so great is their wickedness.' Also Isa. 17.5; Jere. 25.30; Hosea 6.11

Two harvests/Two views – Grain (14-16) and Grape (17-20)

Jesus Christ or and angel? Daniel 7.13; Luke 10.2

How many angels? What are their respective missions?