

Revelation 15

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

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

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

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

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. 63.2-3; 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?

Revelation 15: Introduction of Seven Bowls

1 Angels with Plagues (9.18,20 with trumpet judgments and 11.6)

The Last judgments of history – ‘wrath of God’ – Matthew 3.7; Romans 2.5, 8; 5.9; Ephes. 5.6; Col. 3.6

2-4: Song of Victorious Saints

‘The sea of glass with fire’ – 4.6; in the throne room stand those who have ‘emerged triumphant’ (12.11; 17.14). The saints will ‘inherit the new heavens and new earth’ (21.7)

Victorious Saints are promised:

- a. Tree of life (2.7)
- b. Deliverance from the second death (2.11) and hidden manna (2.17)
- c. Authority over the nations (2.26)
- d. White garments and the Book of Life (3.5)
- e. Becoming pillars in God’s temple (3.12) and
- f. The honor of sitting with Christ as He reigns (3.21)

15.3-4 The Song of Moses – Exodus 15.1-19; Deuteronomy 31.30 – 32.43 – A song of victory

Psalm 111.3; Deut. 28.59-60; 32.4; Ps. 145.17; Jeremiah 10.6-7; Ps. 86.9

15.4 – Why should God be feared and glorified?

15.5-8: Seven Angels Emerge from the Heavenly Temple

Tabernacle in the wilderness – Ex. 25.16-21; Deut. 10.1-2; 1 Kings 8.9; 2 Chron. 5.10

Plagues from God – 9.18-20; 11.6; 13.3, 12-14; 15.1, 8; 16.9, 21; 18.4, 8; 21.9; 22.18

Priests normally wore garments made of linen (Leviticus 16.4, 23); and angels (Ezek. 9.2-3; Daniel 10.5; 12.6-7)

Four Living Creatures – (4.6-7) have guided worship (5.6-7), sent forth 4 horsemen (6.1-8)

Bowls used at Temple for sprinkling of blood sacrifices (Ex. 27.3; 38.3; 2 Chronicles 4.8)

The Cloud accompanies the presence of God – Ex. 25.15-16; 40.34-35; 1 Kings 8.10-12; Isa. 6.1-4