

Q: (vv.14-20) This harvest image is of God’s judgment against unrepentant, rebellious people. They had their chance and rejected Christ and now they must pay the eternal price themselves for their sin. Jesus promised a day when He would separate those faithful to Him and those who reject Him (Matt 13:24-30; Matt 25:31-46). How should this somber scene both encourage persecuted believers, yet also motivate all Christ-followers to urgently share the Good News?

Q: (vv.19-20) a winepress was often used as a symbol of God’s wrath and judgment against sin (Isa 63:3-4; Joel 3:12-13). Here this probably describes the enemies of God killed in the battle of Armageddon in Rev 19:11-21, Zech 14:1-5). How does facing this terrible image of God’s judgment, help people see their desperate need for God’s mercy and grace?

Q: How does this chapter encourage you to press on in following Christ? How does this encourage you to be more intentional about praying for people that you are not sure if they yet have a personal relationship with Jesus?

==> *Lord thank you for your promise to help us endure whatever persecution comes our way. Thank you for the promise that through it all, we will someday stand victorious with You. Help me to be led by your Holy Spirit each day. Protect me and deliver me and my family (and church family) from the evil one, and give us strength to stand firm in your truth. Help me to stand firm for Jesus even if it means persecution. Help others to see their urgent need for your grace and mercy and forgiveness and help them turn to You Jesus. In gratitude, help me to be a faithful witness for you Jesus! In Jesus name, Amen!*



HARVEST
E-FREE CHURCH

Growing Deeper

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of March 13, 2022

Revelation 14

Chapter 12 symbolically describes the battle between good and evil, between God and Satan. In chapter 13, we are introduced to Satan’s “unholy” trinity (dragon, beast, false prophet), mimicking God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is Satan’s last futile attempt to try to become like the One True God. But Christ and His followers will prevail in the end! Here in chapter 14, believers get a glimpse of what awaits us when we endure. We see Jesus and the redeemed, standing on Mt. Zion. We again see God’s pursuing mercy, offering one final plea for people to repent and turn to Jesus!

Q: Given the chaos of chapters 12-13, what comfort do we find in this chapter?

Q: The Lamb (Jesus—Rev 5) and the 144,000 (Rev 7) are seen standing on Mt. Zion. This location could either be on earth in Jerusalem (see Zech 14:4) or in Heaven (Heb 12:22). Either way, they represent believers who have endured persecution for their faith in Jesus and now stand victorious with Him! Describe the scene.

Q: They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They are “first fruits” to God. (see Leviticus 23—the first fruits of the harvest were to be offered to God, giving the best to God, not the leftovers, trusting God to provide the rest of the harvest). In what way are these martyrs “first fruits?” (see also Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 15:20). How else are they described (vv.4-5)?

Q: In the Old Testament, idolatry is often portrayed as spiritual adultery (see OT book of Hosea). They resisted the temptations and seductions of this world (money, power, sexual sins) and remained faithful to Christ. How can Christ-followers remain faithful to Christ today, even when facing temptations all around and ridicule for following Jesus? _____

Q: (vv.6-7) An angel proclaims the “eternal gospel” to the whole earth. What is this eternal gospel message and how is this Good News? What would you tell someone who asked you to explain the Good News to them?

Q: How does this demonstrate once again, God’s continued mercy and pursuit of unbelievers, so they would choose to turn to Jesus? How does this reflect what Paul speaks of (in Rom 1:18-20+) that nobody will be left with an excuse that they never knew; that everyone will somehow have an opportunity to know the truth and choose to either repent of sin and turn to Christ or choose to reject Jesus? (see also what Jesus says in Matt 7:7-8). (No one suffers separation from God accidentally).

Q: (v.8) In contrast to the first angel, what message does this second angel give to the whole earth?

Q: In the OT, Babylon, as a city and a nation, was an enemy of God and His people. It has stood as an example of opposition and rebellion against God (see Gen 11). In John’s day, Rome was like

Babylon in its opposition to Christ and His followers. So here, Babylon may symbolically represent the entire center of power; the economic, religious and governmental system in the last days. How would this announcement be encouraging to those Christians suffering persecution to press on, because the enemy’s end is near?

Q: (v.9-11) what will happen to those who choose to worship the beast (Satan’s Antichrist), receive it’s mark (choosing allegiance to Satan instead of following Jesus)? How does this also show the eternal nature of hell? (see Matt 13:41-42; 25:41);

*for believers, be confident that God will preserve us to the end! (see John 10:27-30; Phil 1:6; Rom 8:31-39; 1 John 5:11-13)

Q: In Revelation, we see many elements of God’s Character. He is Holy (cannot tolerate sin); He is Sovereign and Just and must deal with sin (He must pour out His wrath against sin and put it to death); yet He is also Merciful, Loving and full of Grace. How would you explain why God’s wrath against sin is necessary, yet how God has always provided a way of escape, an offer of eternal life and forgiveness through Jesus? (see also Ezek 33:11; 2 Pet 3:9)

Q: How do we see a clear contrast in this chapter and the results of those who pursue worldly pleasures, rejecting Christ and His direction in their lives, and between those who choose to surrender to and follow Christ and choose to (Mt 6:20) “store up their treasure in heaven?”

Q: (vv.12-13) Why is reading and obeying God’s Word (and truly enjoying time with God) crucial to helping Christ-followers to prepare for persecution when it comes our way? What is promised by God here?