

## Revelation 14 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, we're on section thirty or unit thirty on the book of Revelation which is now chapter fourteen.

*'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.'*

Hundred and forty-four thousand is, of course, the number of Jews that hear the message of Moses and Elijah in chapter eleven of Revelation, and they turn to Christ.

Verse two, *'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:*

*'And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.'*

It's worth remembering that heaven is not a communist state. It is not a group of only those who were Gentiles or were Jews or were Roman Catholics or were message believers or were whatever. Jesus Christ chooses or calls out His own people. And those people are in all denominations and are outside of all denominations, and they are Gentiles and they are Jews. There is a place for each and every one. God has this all sorted out.

And the hundred and forty-four thousand are a special group, they, the Jews, of course, are God's chosen people and He has redeemed them out, they've been blinded for two thousand years but now He has sent the two prophets Moses and Elijah to reveal the truth about the Messiah Jesus Christ. They have accepted this, and therefore they have the Father's name which is Jesus on their foreheads, in their minds, and they are marked with the seal of God.

Verse four, *'These are they which were not defiled with women;'* churches, *'for they are virgins.'* They stayed pure, they did not get caught up in any group, they did not worship their pastor, they did not worship a bishop or a pope or anyone else. They worshipped Christ. Most Christians have, at one stage or another, worshipped the wrong thing. Even John, later in the book of Revelation, worships the angel who revealed all these truths to him. It's a mistake that, I'm afraid, too many of us make. Jesus Christ is the only One to worship. And these people, these Jews, were absolutely pure.

Verse five, *'And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.'*

*'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 judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'*

Now, there comes a time when the gospel will be preached, just as Jesus went down into hell and preached the gospel to the people in hell. They're doomed, but they nonetheless heard the gospel. They have no excuse. And that's what's happening here.

Verse eight, *'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.'*

Fornication is, of course, having lots of different mistresses or husbands or whatever to enjoy yourself with, to control and to manipulate. And that, of course, is exactly what politics does, and when a church gets involved in politics she becomes rather like this.

Babylon was the original false city, in the book of Genesis, but it has transferred itself to Rome. So she is called Babylon the Great.

*'And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

*'The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture 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.'*

There comes a time when there is judgement. There comes a time when you have rejected Christ for the last time. There is only so much time and position for you to actually stand in, and when you've made your position, if you've accepted the world system of religion then you have rejected Christ. And there's a judgement to come because of that.

Verse eleven, *'And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

*'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.'*

The whole point is that anything that comes between us and Jesus Christ is antichrist. And even churches, even denominations, even pastors, even whatever, song leaders, whatever, if they come between us and Jesus Christ they are antichrist and we have taken, we have accepted the wrong god.

And the commandments of God are twofold, first love God, second love your neighbour as yourself. You can add the third one where Jesus also included love each other, love your brethren, believers, in the same way He has loved us. In other words, the commandments of God are love. If you fulfil those there is no Ten Commandments, there is no extra law that is necessary, don't kill, don't steal and so on. If you love someone you would not do those things to them.

Verse thirteen, *'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

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

Now, a sickle, of course, is one of those tools used by old farming systems where you reap the harvest, like a bent blade that you can cut the plants, the wheat or the corn down, and the tares, of course, and that's exactly what we're talking about here. It's the final harvest time for the world when everything has come to its fruit, everything has matured, both the good and the evil.

Verse fifteen, *'And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee 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.*

*'And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

*'And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.'*

Now we know that the concept of grapes, of wine etcetera, is to do with the church. There is the true church, the true vine, and there is the false vine. The Roman Catholic Church, the World Council of Churches, in fact any group or denomination that claims to be of Christ and separates you from Christ saying you have to worship or only operate through them, that's the false vine. That is going to be completely destroyed.

Verse nineteen, *'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,'* or outside, *'and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.'*

Judgement will be complete. This is God's judgement on all the world systems, the world's churches, the political systems that run and, rather, have ruined the original church that Jesus Christ came to save.

God bless you, and may the Lord Jesus Christ reveal His knowledge and truth to you. Amen.