

# Revelation Step by Step, 9

## Revelation 14

One point which is significant to Revelation Chapter 14, where we continue our study, is the point made by E. W. Bullinger, in his respected, “The Companion Bible” 1837. Writing in his introduction to the Book of Revelation, he explains that in the structure of the book, there are a series of visions from chapter 4 onwards, pictured IN HEAVEN then ON EARTH, which continue to alternate throughout, but do not always relate chronologically. These visions he then lists, and we will see an example in this important chapter.

The **first vision** here is in verses 1-5, a vision of Heaven, the Lamb and the 144,000. These are not the 144,000 listed in Revelation 7, for, as we read, those are sealed *after* the resurrection has taken place in chapter 6, and *after* the Great tribulation has been introduced in Revelation 6:17, “**For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?**” Because they are listed along with the great multitude, it is indicated that they, like them, go through the Great Tribulation, verse 14. In addition, the 144,000 mentioned *here* in **ch.14**, are not listed as purely the tribes of Israel, *they* can be of the gentile nations, as we would expect, for once baptised and Sealed with the holy Spirit they became Spiritual Israel, (Romans 9:6-8) ideally suited to rule in their homelands for Christ, and certainly do not need sealing again in chapter 7.

So, to the first vision; ‘**Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.**’ Some have suggested that this is just a typical number, and it should be millions, but we are here talking about Christ’s Bride, the equivalent of the very exceptional Proverbs 31:29 lady, “**Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.**” **144,000** is surely enough Kings and Priests for the countries of the earth *at that point!* Please read Revelation 14:1-5.

It is a quite separate vision from the rest of the chapter which covers the whole of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal up to Armageddon. We must remember that the book was divided up into chapters and verses on the whim of men, not God! This vision describes Christ’s Bride after their resurrection, and on the heavenly Mount Sion, Hebrews 12:22, ‘**But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.**’

It is apparent from “his Father’s name written in their foreheads” that this is *after* their marriage to Jesus Christ, when they gained the Family name. They are on the Sea of Glass, (Rev.15:2) before their Father’s Throne v.3. ‘**These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the**

Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.’ (Verse 4) An interlinear Bible reveals that it should read, ‘were redeemed from *the* men’, the men who, against the command of Christ, held them in the dominion that controls the understanding of doctrine for so many people!

They are *spiritual* virgins because they escaped from **the image of the Beast**, this hierarchical dominion which exists in many churches, which directs people to the teaching of men, doctrine established by some corporate churches, **which cannot be questioned**, rather than the direct example and teaching of Jesus Christ. So these faithful Christians are *chaste*, were counted fit to marry Christ, 2 Corinthians 11:2, ‘For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste** (spiritual) **virgin** to Christ.’

Next, we come to the second and alternate vision, on earth, verse 8:

‘Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.” There is no mention of a ‘city’ in modern versions because the word is not there in the Greek.

The King James translators did not understand that Revelation 17 and 18 are two different aspects of Babylon, and so inserted ‘city’, thinking only of Rome!

Remember, Babylon is referred to in Revelation as a *Satanic world system* which has been used to abuse the people of the earth since the first “king”, Nimrod, (Genesis 10:9-10.) Revelation 18, which is the system referred to here, is the great godless commercial and economic system, which underlies all aspects of this Commercial Babylon today, as the chapter makes clear, whereas chapter 17 is that great false Religious Babylon which has and will dominate the world during the Great Tribulation. The same evil system of dominion, but 2 different aspects of Babylon!

In **Step 8** we saw that when God begins to intervene (Matt.24:14, Rev.14:6-7), He allows Satan 42 months = 3½ years, but the first major event in that time, discussed here, is God’s, **when He brings down the US and UK by cataclysmic intervention**, Revelation 18:21, ‘Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more.’ The word city *is* found here, but it can be used, (Strong’s 4172 eg.c. **by metonymy**), for the inhabitants: Matthew 8:34; Acts 14:21; Matthew 21:10; Acts 13:44; Mark 1:33; Acts 21:30; Matthew 12:25; Matthew 8:34, ‘And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.’

God destroys both Commercial and Religious Babylon in the 7 years of the Tribulation, but this **key chapter**, Revelation 14, shows **Commercial Babylon**, that greatest trading nation and its parent the UK (UK’s British Empire,) will be brought low by God *early* in the 7 years, verse 8, ‘Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the

passion of her sexual immorality.” (Their pornography and abortion has corrupted the world). This happens even before the Beast comes to worldwide power and control, long before Religious Babylon falls, verse 9:

‘Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand...” He has not yet gained absolute control.

These two nations, descended from Manasseh (US) and Ephraim, (UK) the two leading Tribes of Ancient Israel, had been chosen by God to represent His way to the world, but have forgotten God and fallen into the sexual depravity, idolatry and commercial and military oppression, typical of Babylon.

This then, is an advance warning, before people begin to be killed for refusing to *worship* the Beast during the *last* 3 years of the tribulation. Vs. 10-12:

“he too will drink the wine of God’s anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. And he will be tormented in fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Day and night there is no rest for those who worship the **beast and its image**, or for anyone who receives **the mark** of its name. Here is a call for the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” (Cf. Rev 12:17)

Many Christians believe Sunday worship is the mark of the Beast, but though the true Sabbath is indeed a sign or mark of God’s people, and Sunday the mark of the Beast, this mark is more complex than that, but we have yet to learn exactly what the extras are.

This warning not to worship the Beast will also be a part of the broadcast that goes out to the nations from Jerusalem during the **first half** of the 7 years, (Daniel 9:27) which is why the Beast so hates God’s people that it costs him an army! (Revelation 12:15-17). He is also responsible for the persecution and killing of Christians at the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal, Rev. 14:13,

‘And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!”’ (And Daniel 11:35). These martyred Christians may be killed, but they remain dead [asleep] only very briefly, so they are blessed indeed, for the very next verse, 14, tells of the arrival of their salvation and reward!

‘Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.’

The ‘Son of Man’ is the title under which Jesus Christ deals with mankind (Matt. 25:31). God has at that point already judged His people (for we are judged daily) and determined who will be in this Firstfruit harvest. Revelation 14:14 is the identical moment to Matthew 24:29-31:

‘Immediately after the tribulation of those days: (Seals 1-5)

‘The sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’

At that time the sign of the **Son of Man will appear in heaven** and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.’ (= Seal 6)

= Revelation 14:15, ‘And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and **reap**, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”’ Jesus Christ Himself does the reaping of His Bride, the Saints, verse 16, ‘So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.’

Notice that in Revelation 6, as we see the arrival of Christ for His Bride at the Sixth Seal, sitting on His throne in the cloud, this directly follows the Heavenly signs, just as it does in Matthew 24. With the Resurrection, it has taken 3½ years for the 6 Seals to play out. The ‘tribulation of those days’ is then complete, and the Bride of Christ is carried safely away to Heaven where she is ‘nourished’ with all that she needs to learn, (Rev. 12:14) to help Christ in the rule of His Kingdom. Christ’s feet have not even touched the ground.

Now *begins* the 7th Seal. There is a great deal to occur in the next 3½ years, or 42 months, for this is a much more complex Seal! You could read Daniel 11:31-45, and Revelation chapters 15-19. This is ‘The Great Tribulation’, the outpouring of the wrath of God on sinning mankind. It is unsparing in its carnage, so severe that by the end, there are ‘few men left’. Isaiah 24:6, ‘Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people **must bear their guilt**. Therefore earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.’ NIV.

.....The 42 months of horror are by then almost over. The Beast controls most of the world except Asia, across which an army of 200,000,000 have advanced toward Jerusalem, meeting the armies of their enemy the Beast at the plain of Esraildon below the heights and ruins of Meggido. They are about to do battle when Christ returns, with His Bride and armies of angels, and they turn from that battle to fight against Christ at Jerusalem, to which God has called ‘all nations’, Zechariah 14:2. Thus the gathering at Har Meggido gives its name to the ‘battle of Armageddon’ around Jerusalem and the Kidron Valley, where occurs “The great winepress of the wrath of God”.

Back in Revelation 14, we see that this time, an angel does the reaping of this quite different harvest from the Saints, verses 17-20, ‘Then 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, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had

the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into **the great winepress of God’s wrath**. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and the blood that flowed from it rose as high as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

This judgement of the wicked is executed ‘outside the city’ with the terrifying carnage described in Zechariah 14:12-15,

‘And this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes all the peoples who have warred against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

On that day a great panic from the LORD will come upon them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against the other. Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance. And a similar plague will strike the horses and mules, camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.’

So what is the most important thing we have learned from Revelation 14? We have learned that God’s Faithful do not participate in hierarchical dominion, which is the worship of men rather than Jesus Christ, and thus idolatry, just as is the worship of the image of the Beast. We will examine the symptoms of the “image of the beast” in the next step, they cannot be missed! True Christians keep the Commandments of God and though they experience “the tribulation of those days”, the first 3½ years of the tribulation, Jesus Christ comes for His faithful Bride just **before** the “great winepress of the wrath of God” or Day of the Lord, ie. the Great Tribulation. Thus, as we will see in step 10, they, like the apostle John, witness the last horrors of the Great Tribulation from the safety of Heaven. Revelation 3:10, “**Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.**” NLT.

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