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By Dan Maines

## **Revelation 14**

### **Revelation 14:1**

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

† The Lamb on Mount Zion fulfills Psalm 2:6, "I have installed My King on Zion." The 144,000 represent the faithful remnant of Israel preserved through judgment.

† Proof, Hebrews 12:22 shows that Mount Zion is not earthly Jerusalem but the heavenly Jerusalem. The sealing in

Revelation 7 now appears as vindication in Christ's presence.

### **Revelation 14:2-3**

And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth.

† The new song represents the new covenant people who alone can sing of redemption. Just as Israel sang after the Exodus (Exodus 15), so the redeemed sing after deliverance from the old covenant's bondage.

† Proof, only those sealed by Christ can understand this song because it is the song of fulfilled redemption.

### **Revelation 14:4-5**

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

† The purity here is symbolic, not literal celibacy. They are undefiled by spiritual adultery, which the prophets often equated with idolatry (Hosea 2:2). They are faithful to Christ alone.

† "First fruits" points to the remnant of believers preserved from Israel as the first fruits of the new creation. Proof, James 1:18 calls believers the "first fruits" of God's creatures.

### **Revelation 14:6-7**

And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people; and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and

the earth, and sea and springs of waters."

† This angel represents the gospel's universal proclamation. The judgment was not delayed to some future millennium, but declared as "has come."

† Proof, Paul said the gospel had already gone out "to all creation under heaven" (Colossians 1:23), showing fulfillment in the first century.

### **Revelation 14:8**

And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

† Babylon here is apostate Jerusalem, drunk with power and guilty of covenant adultery. She had become like Sodom and Egypt (Revelation 11:8).

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 5.13.6) describes Jerusalem's leaders as drunken with madness and leading the people into destruction, fulfilling this imagery.

### **Revelation 14:9-11**

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

† This warns against compromise with Rome's power. Those who gave allegiance to the beast faced judgment.

† Proof, Isaiah 34:9-10 used the same language of smoke rising forever to describe Edom's judgment, which was temporal. The

imagery means permanent destruction, not endless torture.

### **Revelation 14:12-13**

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

† This shows the contrast: while the beast's worshipers have no rest, the saints who die in Christ enter eternal rest.

† Proof, martyrdom was not defeat but victory, as Polycarp later testified when he faced death, echoing the hope of those who "rest from their labors."

### **Revelation 14:14-16**

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, with a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in Your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

† The Son of Man on the cloud fulfills Daniel 7:13. The harvest is covenantal judgment on Israel, separating faithful from unfaithful.

† Proof, Jesus predicted this in Matthew 13:39-43, where angels reap the harvest at the end of the age, the end of the old covenant age.

### **Revelation 14:17-20**

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put

in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trampled outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of about two hundred miles.

† The wine press of God's wrath is judgment on Jerusalem. "Outside the city" mirrors Christ's crucifixion (Hebrews 13:12) and shows Jerusalem as the focus of wrath.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 6.9.4) describes rivers of blood flowing in Jerusalem during its destruction. The imagery of blood up to the horses' bridles expresses the magnitude of judgment.

### **How it applies to us today**

† The Lamb stands victorious on Zion, assuring us of His rule.

† The contrast between the faithful and those marked by the beast calls us to remain pure in allegiance to Christ.

† The harvest imagery reminds us that judgment fell exactly as Christ said, proving His word is trustworthy.

† The eternal gospel is already fulfilled in Christ's victory, and we live in its blessing.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† Psalm 2:6 – King on Zion

† Hebrews 12:22 – Mount Zion as heavenly Jerusalem

† Exodus 15 – song of deliverance

† Hosea 2:2 – idolatry as adultery

† James 1:18 – believers as first fruits

† Colossians 1:23 – gospel to all creation

† Isaiah 34:9-10 – smoke of judgment imagery

† Daniel 7:13 – Son of Man on the cloud

† Matthew 13:39-43 – harvest at the end of the age

† Matthew 24:15-16 – flight from Jerusalem

† Josephus, Wars 5.13.6; 6.9.4 – Jerusalem's corruption and rivers of blood

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13 – disasters in Judea

† Polycarp, Martyrdom of Polycarp – testimony of resting in Christ

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