

Revelation 14

The Gospel and the Wrath of God

144,000 - 14:1-5

Back in chapter 7 of Revelation we were introduced to the 144,000. This time we are given a few more details.

- 144,000 are with the Lamb (v1)
 - Numbers 1-3: numbering the men of the tribes for the purpose of an army.
 - Rev. 19:14 (CSB): *The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen.*
- 144,000 have a name written on their foreheads (v1)
 - Isaiah 56:5 (CSB): *I will give them, in my house and within my walls, a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give each of them an everlasting name that will never be cut off.*
- 144,000 sang a unique song (v3)
- 144,000 redeemed from the earth (v3)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8 (CSB): *In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*
- 144,000 were virgin men (v4)
- 144,000 followed the Lamb, wherever He went (v4)
 - Matthew 16:24 (CSB): *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*
- 144,000 are the firstfruits redeemed for God and the Lamb (v4)
 - The firstfruits are understood to mean...first of many. These are not the only Israelites saved during the 7-year tribulation period. Both Jews and Gentiles are saved during this time.
 - Revelation 7:9, 14 (CSB): *After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. I said to him, "Sir, you know." Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
- 144,000 had no lies found in their mouths (v5)
- 144,000 were blameless (v5)
 - Genesis 6:9 (CSB): *These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.*

5 Angels – 14:6-20

1st Angel: The Reach of the Gospel

- The gospel is proclaimed to every nation, tribe, language, and people.
- Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB): *Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
- John 3:16 (CSB): *For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*
- The gospel can reach anyone in anyplace under any condition. Romans 1:16

2nd Angel: The Proclamation of Wrath

- God clearly has a standard. Violation of that standard kindles the wrath of God.
- John 3:36 (CSB): *The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.*
- Romans 5:9 (CSB): *The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.*

3rd Angel: Biblical Doctrine of Eternal Punishment

- Eternal Punishment will be:
 - Torment with fire and sulfur
 - In the sight of the holy angels and the Lamb
 - Torment will be forever and ever
 - There is no rest day or night
- Revelation 20:13-15 (CSB): *¹³Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. ¹⁴Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

4th Angel: A Reaping

- A golden crown with a sharp sickle for reaping a harvest
- The harvest of the earth has become rotten (*since the harvest of the earth is ripe*)
 - ἐξηράνθη – has dried up; rotten; over ripened
 - Matthew 13:37-42 (CSB): *³⁷He replied, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world; and the good seed—these are the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom all who cause sin and those guilty of lawlessness. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- Timeline? – 6th Trumpet - Revelation 9:15 (CSB): *So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race.*

5th Angel: The Reaping

- Authority over fire with a sharp sickle for reaping grapes
- The grapes of the earth are in their prime (*because its grapes have ripened*)
 - ἤκμασαν – to be at the prime
 - At the height of wicked man’s prime...he will be cut down.
 - This cutting down will happen just outside the city (Jerusalem) and the blood will flow for 180 miles.
- Timeline? – The battle of Armageddon
 - Revelation 19:19-21 (CSB): *¹⁹Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against his army. ²⁰But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.*