

A graphic featuring a large, gnarled tree trunk in the center, with two glowing circular openings. The word "GENESIS" is written in small, gold, all-caps letters above the tree, and "REVELATION" is written in the same style below it. The word "BOOKENDS" is written in large, white, serif, all-caps letters across the middle of the tree trunk, with the letters appearing to be part of the tree's structure. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene of a city street at night, with lights and buildings visible through the tree's canopy.

GENESIS BOOKENDS REVELATION

THE LORD'S HARVEST

REVELATION 14

SYNOPSIS

In Revelation 14, John is given a vision of two kinds of people and two eternal destinies. One group is marked by the Lamb, redeemed by Christ, purified by grace, and destined to sing a new song forever. The other is marked by Babylon and the beast, seduced by the world, hardened by sin, and headed toward judgment. The chapter culminates in a final harvest where Christ separates humanity once and for all. This sermon explores the reality that every person is being shaped by what they worship, and one day the harvest of eternity will reveal who they truly belonged to.

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: Everyone is marked for one of two eternities.

1. **A People Marked by the Lamb (1-5):** Those redeemed by Christ are sealed by grace, purified from sin, and joyfully worship the Lamb who purchased them with his blood.
2. **A People Marked by Babylon (6-13):** Those who reject Christ are seduced by Babylon, hardened by sin, and warned of the eternal judgment awaiting all outside the Lamb.
3. **A Harvest That Reveals Each Person's Mark (14-20):** At Christ's return, humanity will be separated forever as the final harvest reveals who belonged to the Lamb and who belonged to Babylon.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Special Leader's Note: Please remember that we are getting into heavily debated passages of scripture. Some will likely disagree with Pastor Raef's choice of interpretation on various symbols in this and coming chapters. That is okay! But be careful to not let the group discussion become a debate on symbol interpretation. Get to the practical heart level discussions around the principles of the text.

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1. Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
- 2. Worship and What Marks Us:** "Don't Give an Inch" and Everyday Compromise: Throughout the sermon, the repeated call was "Don't give an inch." Yet most compromise does not happen all at once, but slowly through small concessions over time.
 - a. In what areas are Christians today most tempted to "give an inch" in order to avoid conflict, rejection, or discomfort?
 - b. Looking honestly at your own life, where do you feel pressure to soften truth, hide conviction, or remain silent when faithfulness to Christ would be costly?
- 3. The "New Song" of the Redeemed:** Revelation 14 describes the redeemed joyfully singing before the Lord. The sermon emphasized that genuine worship flows from hearts transformed by grace.
 - a. Why do you think worship can sometimes feel difficult or disconnected even for sincere Christians?
 - b. What are some moments in your life when gratitude for Christ naturally overflowed into worship, joy, or obedience?
- 4. Spiritual Drift and Ripening:** The sermon emphasized that nobody becomes hardened against God overnight. Hearts slowly ripen either toward Christ or toward greater love for the world.
 - a. Why is spiritual drift often difficult to notice in ourselves?
 - b. What are some warning signs that a person may be slowly growing spiritually numb or distant from God?
- 5. The Reality of Judgment and Eternity:** Revelation 14 speaks honestly and soberly about the wrath of God and the reality of eternal judgment.
 - a. Why do you think modern people, including many Christians, often avoid thinking about eternity and judgment?
 - b. How should the reality of eternity shape the way we live, repent, pray, and share the gospel with others?