

REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 19

REVELATION 14

Ch 14 is a parenthetical chapter talking about the return of the Lord.

Why? It seems as though God wanted John to insert some HOPE. It's giving us mercy in the midst of wrath.

Ch 13 - death with the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

Antichrist - will come empowered by Satan who will be this political charismatic leader who will end up becoming a dictator over a 1 world government.

Book - "Closing of the American Mind" by Allan Bloom, "The essential component in establishing globalism, is to eliminate any system of absolutes".

He is saying “removing absolutes sets the stage for Globalism”.

Nobel prize winning economist “Jon Tinbergen” mankind’s problems can no longer be solved by national governments, what is needed is world governments.”

In 2013 in a paid speech, Hillary Clinton, said “my dream is a hemispheric common market with an open trade and open borders sometime in the future”.

The Antichrist will appear and oversee and run this one world system.

Also, the False Prophet will appear and promote a one world religion.

It’s a one world government and a one world religion.

Ch 14 - Reminder Jesus is coming again. Now He is NOT literally coming until Ch 19, but it's an encouraging reminder and it also details about how God is going to get the gospel out for those who are alive and still have an opportunity to be saved.

God is going to use a very unique method to get this done and accomplished.

Ch 14

Vs 1) - "I looked" (Jesus returns and the 144,000)

Vs 6) - "I saw" (God uses 3 Angels to proclaim the Gospel and JUDGE the world.)

Vs 14) - "I looked" (God uses 3 Angels to harvest the world and to separate believers from non-believers.)

Vs 1 - 5

John has a vision and writes it down and he sees a “Lamb.”

We have seen the “Lamb” in Revelation is none other than Jesus.

It’s His favorite term in Revelation and it’s used of Him 26 times in this book.

He’s using that term to remind us that he came to sacrifice himself for the sins of the world.

“Standing on Mt Zon” - debate among scholars as to whether this is literally Jerusalem, or if it’s a picture that is happening in heaven.

Some say “it’s on earth” others say “it’s in Heaven”. I tend to lean toward it being on earth because he goes on to say “heard a voice from heaven”.

Now Mt Zion is a reference to Jerusalem in the Bible more than 160 times. Every time except 2 times to the physical city Jereusalem.

It’s picturing His return at the end of tribulation when the Battle of Armageddon will occur and Jesus comes to Mt Olive (east of Jerusalem) and John sees this.

He also sees “144,000”.

We were first introduced to this 144,000 all the way back in Ch 7.

So as a way of review:

1 - Sealed on their foreheads (7:3)

Ch 14:1 - “Fathers name written on foreheads”

“Sealed” - refers to a divine protection.

144,000 are Jewish believers from each of the 12 tribes of Israel who have been saved during the tribulation and protected from it.

(14:4a) - “not defiled with women . . . virgins”. The indication is that they are men, and that they have never had intimate relations with a woman.

Some view this “literal” and some “figurative”. I lean to figurative because back in the O. T. Isaiah 37:22, Israel referred “virgin daughter of Zion”.

Then in N. T., II Cor 11:2, Paul talks about how he longs to present the church to Christ as a virgin daughter.

I tend to lean figurative and that it describes the purity of the 144,000.

“Followed the Lamb” (14:4b) - attentive and obedient to follow Christ.

“Redeemed” from among men (14:4c).

“No deceit in their mouth” (14:5a). They were not liars and did not deceive anyone.

“Without fault” (14:5b)

“Blameless” - it does not mean that they were sinless but living a redeemed life and when stand before God appear without fault.

(Vs 3) Also refers to them singing “a new song”.

(Vs 2) Also says “harpist were playing harps”.

(Vs 6 - 13) - This section is a part of the vision when John sees 3 angels and they each have a specific purpose.

Angel 1 - the invitation (to accept Christ) (Vs 6 - 7). It has never happened before and won't happen again. God is literally using an angel to preach the gospel.

God dispatches an angel to fly in the atmospheric heaven to proclaim the Gospel to every nation, tribe and tongue.

Listen - we don't need to lose sight of the heart of God in the midst of all this devastation.

Even in the face of absolute rejection, He is still saying one more stanza of an invitation.

He wants people to hear and be saved so badly that even in rejection He will dispatch an angel to fly around the planet to share the good news.

Angel # 2 - gives a doom of Antichrist system (Vs 8).

Angel # 3 - Condemnation of those “who choose to follow the beast” (Vs 9 - 11).

“Mark of the Beast” indicates that you’re rejecting Christ and this angel will preach condemnation.

(Vs 12) - Always a remnant, even in tribulation.

(Vs 13) - Death is always a grievous thing when we lose a loved one. But what he is saying is “when you die in the Lord” when you know Christ, death is a comma not a period.

“Rest from labor, works follow them”. Ultimate rest is with the Lord in heaven. “Works follow them” - will reward us based on our works.

(Vs 14 - 20)

(Vs 14 - 16) - Who is this one on cloud?

It's a reference to Jesus being the Harvester of the Earth. He will use angels in the harvest, but HE is the ultimate harvester.

Harvest = Harvest of Souls.

There will be a dividing the believers and unbelievers.

“Son of Man” is a messianic reference.

Sitting on white cloud = Purity

Wearing golden crown = Victory

Holding sharp sickle = Authority

Angel # 1 - The Announcement

(Vs 16) - it's a picture of Him harvesting the earth.

Angel # 2 (Vs 17) - Deployment

Angel # 3 (Vs 18) = Judgement (unbelievers)

(Vs 20)

Remember the climatic event that ends the tribulation is the battle of Armageddon.

Battle of Armageddon begins in “Har Megiddo”, it’s Valley of Megiddo in Jezreel Valley.

Kidron = “Black” would often run black from blood of the animals sacrificed on the temple mount.

Around Passover, so many lambs slain that the valley would literally run black with blood.

Apparently this battle will be so horrific that blood will flow from Jezreel to Kidron Valley.

Fur - “1600 Furlongs” - It’s basically 180 miles.

So the 3rd Angel will be used by God to bring about this judgement.

