

Studying the book of Revelation (17)

Sermon Title: “The Lamb, the 144,000, and the Final Harvest”

Text: Revelation 14:1–20

Introduction: Revelation 14 is a chapter of contrasts—between the redeemed and the rebellious, between the pure and the perverted, between heaven’s song and hell’s torment, between the gospel of grace and the certainty of judgment. It comes as a divine **pause of hope** between the horrific visions of Revelation 13 (the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the mark of the beast) and the outpouring of God’s final wrath in Revelation 15–16.

In the midst of chaos and darkness, God lifts the curtain to reveal:

1. **The destiny of the faithful** (the Lamb and His people)
2. **The doom of the wicked** (those who follow the beast)
3. **The certainty of final judgment** (the harvest of the earth)

1. The Lamb and the 144,000 – A Picture of the Redeemed (Rev. 14:1–5)

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand...” (v. 1)

A. Their Location – Mount Zion

- This is **heavenly Mount Zion** (Hebrews 12:22–24), the eternal city of God.
- After the trials of Revelation 13, John sees the *victorious* people of God—safe, secure, and standing with the Lamb.

B. Their Mark – The Father’s Name

- In contrast to the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16–17), these have the name of the Father on their foreheads (Rev. 3:12).
- This shows **ownership, identity, and protection** (John 10:27–29).

C. Their Song – A New Song

- Only the redeemed can learn it (v. 3). Salvation gives us a song (Psalm 40:3).
- Their song reflects *personal experience of God’s deliverance*—something angels cannot sing (1 Peter 1:12).

D. Their Purity and Loyalty

- “Not defiled with women” — symbolic of spiritual faithfulness, not literal celibacy. They have not committed spiritual fornication with the world (James 4:4).
- “Follow the Lamb wherever He goes” — total discipleship (Luke 9:23).

- “Without fault before the throne” — justification in Christ (Jude 24).

Application:

- Are you marked by God’s ownership or the world’s approval?
- Do you follow Christ *wherever* He goes, even when it’s costly?

2. The Three Angels’ Messages – God’s Final Call to the World (Rev. 14:6–13)

This is **heaven’s last warning** before the bowls of wrath are poured out.

First Angel – The Eternal Gospel (vv. 6–7)

- Preaches to “every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” — God’s grace is global (Matthew 24:14).
- Message: “Fear God and give glory to Him... worship Him who made heaven and earth...” — calls for **reverence, repentance, and recognition** of God as Creator (Romans 1:20).
- Urgency: “For the hour of His judgment has come” — no more delay.

Second Angel – The Fall of Babylon (v. 8)

- “Babylon” here symbolizes the corrupt world system opposed to God (Jeremiah 51:7–8).
- “Is fallen, is fallen” — the certainty of judgment (Isaiah 21:9).
- Babylon’s sin: making the nations drink “the wine of the wrath of her fornication”—spiritual seduction into idolatry, greed, and immorality.

Third Angel – The Warning Against the Mark of the Beast (vv. 9–11)

- Those who worship the beast and receive his mark will face **eternal torment** in fire and brimstone.
- “No rest day or night” — the unending nature of God’s judgment (Mark 9:48).
- This is the most solemn warning in Scripture—there is no second chance after death (Hebrews 9:27).

Encouragement for the Saints (v. 12–13):

- Perseverance: “Here is the patience of the saints...” — hold fast in faith and obedience (Revelation 2:10).
- Blessing: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...” — death in Christ is gain (Philippians 1:21).
- Rest: “...they rest from their labours, and their works follow them.”

Application:

- The gospel is urgent — are you proclaiming it while there is time?

- Which “city” are you part of — Babylon or the New Jerusalem?
- Are you willing to endure hardship now to avoid eternal regret later?

3. The Final Harvest – Judgment of the Earth (Rev. 14:14–20)

Two harvests are described — one of salvation, one of wrath.

A. The Harvest of the Righteous (vv. 14–16)

- “One like the Son of Man... with a golden crown” — Jesus as victorious King (Daniel 7:13–14; Matthew 13:37–43).
- “A sharp sickle” — ready for reaping.
- This is the gathering of the redeemed at the end (Matthew 24:31).

B. The Harvest of Wrath (vv. 17–20)

- The second angel swings his sickle for the “grapes of wrath.”
- The winepress imagery (Isaiah 63:1–6; Joel 3:13) — depicts crushing judgment.
- The blood “up to the horses’ bridles” — a picture of the magnitude of God’s final judgment.

Application:

- Everyone will be part of one harvest — salvation or judgment.
- God’s justice is certain and severe — flee to Christ now (John 3:36).

Conclusion & Call

Revelation 14 reminds us that:

- **God’s people will stand victorious with the Lamb.**
- **The gospel will be proclaimed until the very end.**
- **Judgment is inevitable for those who reject Christ.**

Takeaway Truths:

1. Your mark determines your destiny — the seal of God or the mark of the beast.
2. Your worship determines your allegiance — the Creator or the counterfeit.
3. Your harvest is determined by your choice — eternal life or eternal wrath.

Key Cross-References for Preaching

- Hebrews 12:22–24 – Mount Zion and the heavenly Jerusalem.
- Matthew 24:14; Romans 1:20 – The gospel to all nations.
- Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:7–8 – Fall of Babylon.
- Hebrews 9:27 – The finality of judgment.
- Matthew 13:37–43; Joel 3:13 – The harvest imagery.