

Revelation 14

Up until this point we have seen the powers of evil triumphant on the earth, and we have identified the Beast as the Roman Empire. Now we shift over to a

1. The Lamb and His allies (vv. 1-5) scene of two of the good guys and the impending victory of good over evil.

* 144,000 (12x12) we met these chaps back in chapter 7, it those redeemed out of the people of Israel

*sealed with the Father's Name - compare to ch. 13 with those who have the Mark of the Beast. Note the ties to the rite of Baptism, anointing

*the new song: ref. to things like the Magnificat, music as prophesy, David as musician was regarded as a prophet. Music, a gift from heaven. In epic poems one asked the divine Music to do the singing

*Why can no one understand this? Unless one is already among the redeemed and have not experienced salvation, they do not know what it is

Consider how little people understand our faith from outside

*v. 4 undefiled by women. Recall that bodily fluid renders one ritually unclean, but this is also symbolic of people getting involved with outsiders

We become like those we hang with: we are chameleons

*virgins: an obvious symbol from refraining from sin

*the OT Prophets often equated sexual sin with idolatry

*no deceit on their lips: lies are associated with the devil

2. The prophetic angels (vv. 6-13)

Three angels acting as messengers announce to the world (everyone hears this) and ignores it at their peril, followed by more who execute

- a. The first angel: give glory to God who made all things: worship Him
- b. The great dragon (The Roman Empire) has fallen, because they have corrupted the entire world (image of lewd Wine). Also: those who have accepted the mark of the beast will suffer eternal torment

- c. The damnation to those who have submitted to the beast

1. Note sulphur, giving rise to proverbial "fire and brimstone"

- ii. Smoke without end - obviously nasty

- iii. Wine: that which makes us lose control, become powerless

- iv. Note references in vv. 12-13 to both faith and works

- v. The pains of the damned do not apply to the faithful

- d. "the mark of the beast"

- i. microchip or tattoo - it is more likely symbolic

- ii. a Roman Slave might be tattooed or if he tried to escape, they would be branded
- iii. seals were used to authenticate documents
- iv. possibility SPQR, Senatus Populusque Romae

3. The Harvest of the goods of the earth

- a. Note in general the fruits of the earth, in the sense of you shall reap which you have sown. Note bread and wine both used here
- b. The sickle - the broad stroke, as in cutting many down at once.
 - L In harvests you do not get much of a change when to harvest - you have to do it when it is ripe, here in the sense of an appointed time. Note also symbol of agriculture in general
 - ii. Note the origins of the image of the Grim Reaper .
 - iii. Red as in symbol of blood, note it splashing on the sides of horses up to the bridle, a melee of killing. This kind of splashing of blood really did happen to war horses
 - iv. "He hath trampled out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored"