

Revelation Chapter 14

1) Introduction

- a) In chapters 12 and 13, the unholy trinity of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.
- b) The whole earth was amazed at the beast, and the vision shown to John was vivid and even frightening when the power and influence given to the beast is considered.
- c) The beast had power to make war with the saints and to overcome them (13:7)
- d) Christians needed a message like Elisha gave.
 - i) 2 Kings 6:15-17 - [15](#) When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” [16](#) He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” [17](#) Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2) Contrasts Between Chapter 13 and 14

Satan	God
2 Agents 1 st Beast (13:1-10) 2 nd Beast (13:11-18)	2 Agents The Lamb (14:1,14) The Sickle (14:14)
Mark of the Beast (13:16-18)	Name of the Lamb & Father (14:1)
Worship Beast & Image (13:8,15)	No Deceit, Virgins (14:4-5) Did not deny Christ Did not prostitute with idols
Christians suffering limited (13:5)	Worshippers of Beast suffer eternally (14:10-11)
Image of Beast speaks (13:15)	Eternal gospel proclaimed (14:6)
Hard times for Christians (13:17)	Victory in Christ (14:12)
Short-term benefits of worshipping the beast and receiving his mark (13:17)	Long-term consequences of worshipping the beast and receiving his mark (14:9-11)

3) The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion (14:1-5)

- a) [1](#) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. [2](#)

And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, **3** and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. **4** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, **5** and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

i) On Mount Zion stood the Lamb (14:1)

(1) Hebrews 12:22-24 - **22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, **23** and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

(2) Rev. 5:7 - And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

(a) The Lamb is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals.

(3) Rev. 7:9-10 - **9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

(a) The numberless multitude gives praise to God and the Lamb.

ii) and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. (14:1)

(1) Rev. 7:4 - And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

(a) They were sealed, and the seal is described in 14:1 – the name of the Lamb and his Father's name.

(b) The seal represents protection; the name represents ownership.

(2) Rev. 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (Philadelphia)

- (a) No matter how formidable the beast appeared to be, all the faithful will be with Jesus in victory.
- iii) **2** And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, **3** and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. (14:2-3)
 - (1) I heard a voice from heaven
 - (a) A powerful voice
 - (b) 144,000 singing
 - (2) Singing a new song
 - (a) Psalm 98:1 - Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
 - (b) Rev. 5:9-10 - **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, **10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
 - (c) Each new victory brings a new song.
 - (d) The redeemed gained the victory, so only they could learn the song.
- b) . **4** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, **5** and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. (14:4-5)
 - i) Have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins
 - (1) Symbolic of freedom from spiritual fornication of idol worship
 - (a) Jeremiah 3:1-5 - You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? declares the Lord.
 - (b) Hosea 4:12 - My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.
 - (c) James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - (2) It does not declare any superiority of the celibate life.
 - (a) 1 Tim. 4:1-5 - ... who forbid marriage ...

- (i) Such false teaching resulted in the establishment of monasteries and convents.
- (b) 1 Tim. 3:1-7 - ... the husband of one wife ... keeping his children submissive ...
- ii) who follow the Lamb wherever he goes
 - (1) Four characteristics every Christian needs to gain the victory over the beast
 - (a) Be faithful – not spiritual adulterers of idol worship
 - (b) Be a follower - It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
 - (i) Mark 8:34 - “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
 - (ii) Absolute loyalty to the Lamb
 - (c) Be firstfruits - These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb
 - (i) Exodus 34:26 - The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God.
 - (ii) Colossians 1:21-23 - he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
 - (d) Be blameless - and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.
 - (i) No denial of Christ – no lie was found
 - (ii) Not blameless by merit, but by the blood of the Lamb.
 - (iii) 1 Pet. 1:18-19 - **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

4) The messages of the three angels (14:6-13)

- a) **6** Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. **7** And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” **8** Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.” **9** And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** And the

smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” [12](#) Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. [13](#) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

b) The first angel (14:6-7)

i) Flying directly overhead – flying in midheaven

- (1) In addition to John, the ones standing on Mount Zion may have seen.
- (2) No one should miss the message of this angel.

ii) With an eternal gospel to proclaim

- (1) The angel is a vision; man has been commissioned to proclaim the gospel.
- (2) Matt. 28:18-20 - [19](#) 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, [20](#) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
- (3) Mark 16:15-16 - [15](#) And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. [16](#) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

iii) LDS teaches that these verses (14:6-7) describe an angel flying over the state of New York, depositing certain tablets which Joseph Smith found and deciphered.

- (1) However, the gospel revealed to the apostles was complete, and no further revelation of the gospel is necessary or valid.
- (2) John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
- (3) Jude 3 - Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
- (4) 1 Cor 2:12-13 - [12](#) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13](#) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- (5) Gal. 1:8 - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

- iv) to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.
 - (1) The gospel is for all - proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
- v) And he said with a loud voice
 - (1) So that all may hear
- vi) Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - **13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. **14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
 - (2) Rev. 6:10 - They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
 - (3) Rev. 10:5-7 - **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven **6** and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that **there would be no more delay**, **7** but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.
 - (4) Rev. 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”
 - (5) The warnings have ended, and events are moving swiftly toward the time when the cry of the martyrs will be answered.
 - (6) After all the misery unveiled in chapter 13, it seemed good to the Holy Spirit to bring a vision of victory to the saints.
- vii) and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.
 - (1) Instead of worshiping the beast who *boasted* of great things, worship God who has actually *done* great things.
 - (2) Acts 14:15 - “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.
- viii) *All of this indicates that the Victory of the Lamb is so certain that an angel announces it before the battles begins.*

ix) The first angel proclaim good news (gospel), and the gospel is good news, but in the gospel is also sad news for those who do not obey the gospel – the hour of his judgment has come.

c) The second angel (14:8)

i) Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”

(1) Isaiah 21:9 - And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!” And he answered, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground.”

(a) Isaiah was speaking of physical Babylon.

(b) The second angel is speaking of spiritual Babylon.

(2) Rev. 17:1-6 - ... And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”

...

(a) Physical Babylon was the political and religious capital of a world empire at one time, the one about which Nebuchadnezzar boasted.

(i) Danial 4:28-30 - [28](#) All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

[29](#) At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, [30](#) and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”

(b) Babylon the great is obviously and enemy of God, and the 3rd agent of Satan.

(i) The beast intimidates

(ii) The false prophet deceives

(iii) Babylon seduces.

(c) She has successfully attracted the masses away from God.

(d) But, she was doomed – the second angel spoke as if it had already happened.

(3) She who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.

(a) The wine of the seductress will seem weak when compared to the wine of God’s wrath poured full strength in 14:10.

d) The third angel (14:9-13)

i) [9](#) And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, [10](#) he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence

- of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” **12** Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. **13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”
- ii) In verse 8, all nations were made to drink of the wine of the seductress.
 - iii) In verses 9 and 10, anyone who worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or hand will drink the wine of God’s wrath.
 - (1) This would include those who were formerly Christians who denied the name of Christ in order to save their own skin from persecution and death.
 - (2) The receiving of the marks seems voluntary, that no one was forced to receive the mark, unless by threat of sanctions against buying and selling.
 - (3) The wine of God’s wrath will be full-strength – without mercy.
 - iv) Rev. 13:17 presented short-term benefits of worshiping the beast and receiving his mark. Rev. 14:9-11 presents the long-term consequences of worshiping the beast and receiving his mark.
 - v) tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
 - (1) Christians were persecuted in full view of unsympathetic on-lookers; the tables will be turned and the beast-worshipers will be humiliated before angels and the Lamb.
 - vi) the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”
 - (1) Burning sulfur emits a noxious odor, and the torment goes on forever.
 - (2) Verse 13 states that those who die in the Lord will rest from their labors, but for the beast-worshipers there is no rest at all.
 - (a) 2 Thess. 1:5-10 when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels **8** in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
 - (b) Matt. 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

- vii) Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (14:12)
 - (1) Rev. 13:10 - If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.
 - (2) This verse expands upon Rev. 13:10 by labeling the saints as those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.
 - (3) Keep the commandments of God instead of the emperor.
 - (4) Keep their faith in Jesus instead of denying Jesus before the image of the emperor.
- viii) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (14:13)
 - (1) The voice from heaven is not identified, but it is one with authority to command John to write this.
 - (2) Those who die in the Lord from now on
 - (a) Two messages
 - (i) To die in the Lord could mean death to sin through baptism.
 - (ii) More likely is the idea that those who kept the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus, who had died to sin and remained faithful, should not be concerned that they would die, perhaps at the hands of the 2nd beast (enforcer of worship of the image of the emperor), because of the blessing pronounced.
 - 1. Specific to those still living at the time.
 - 2. Those who had already died have the same promised blessing.
 - a. Rev. 6:11 - Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
 - (3) That they may rest from their labors
 - (a) Rest - [anapaēsontai](#) - properly, to experience *rest after the needed task is completed*; to *pause (rest) "after precious toil and care"*.
 - (b) Does not mean they will have nothing to do, but they will have rest from the persecution they have endured while remaining faithful.
 - (c) In contrast, those bearing the mark of the beast have no rest, day or night (14:11)
- ix) for their deeds follow them!"
 - (1) God does not forget what they have done
 - (2) Throughout chapter 14, two choices have been offered

- (a) Worship the beast and have it easy for a while but suffer without rest for eternity.
 - (b) Suffer for your faith for a while, but receive the blessing of heaven for eternity.
- e) The harvest of the earth (14:14-20)
 - i) **14** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.” **16** So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18** And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” **19** So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. **20** And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.
 - ii) One like a son of man (14:14)
 - (1) Rev. 1:13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,
 - (a) No doubt about the identity of the son of man in chapter 1.
 - (b) Many think, and the NASB translates with uppercase “H” throughout 14:14-20.
 - (c) Questions arise in verse 15 when an angel comes out of the temple with a command to the one who sat on the cloud.
 - (d) In 1:16 one like a son of man had a sword – here he has a sickle.
 - (e) In 14:17 another angel comes out of the temple also bearing a sharp sickle.
 - (f) Whether it was Jesus or an angel sent from God does not affect the central idea of these verses – the earth will be harvested.
 - (g) Note that the JW sect identifies this one like a son of man as Jesus, but seem to hold that Jesus was an angel, a created being.
 - (2) Seated on the cloud
 - (a) Waiting for a command
 - (i) Mark 13:32 - But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
 - (3) With a golden crown on his head

- (a) The crown is stephanos, the crown of victory, but it is golden.
 - (b) Perhaps a merger of victory and royalty.
- (4) A sharp sickle in his hand
- (a) The sickle is an agricultural tool used here to symbolize divine judgment in harvesting the earth.
 - (b) Jesus came once to bring salvation. It is not incongruent that his second coming will bring judgment.
 - (i) 2 Thess. 1:5-10 - ... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels **8** in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ...
 - (ii) Matt. 13:36-43 - ... The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. **40** Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, **42** and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ...
- (5) Another angel came out of the temple (14:15)
- (a) Out of the temple – from God
 - (b) Calling to the one who sat on the cloud
 - (i) Sitting on the cloud, waiting for the command, which is now given.
 - (c) “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”
 - (i) Hour is used as an appointed time, or the right time, which has come.
 - (ii) The harvest of the earth is fully ripe
 - (iii) There are two different sickle-bearers, and two different reapings.
 1. This first reaping may refer to the protection of Christians, who will be spared from the horror of the second reaping.
 2. The language does not specify wheat, but seems to imply it.
 3. The gathering of wheat is elsewhere applied to the righteous.
 - a. Matt. 3:12 - His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
 - b. Matt. 25:31-46 – seems to address the sheep before the goats, just as there are two gatherings of the sickle in this chapter of Revelation.

- (6) So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. (14:16)
- (a) Although commentators are not unanimous, it seems most likely that this first reaping is of the righteous, which may be the purpose of two reapings shown to John in the vision.
- iii) Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. (14:17)
- (1) This angel comes out with his sickle ready, but does not proceed until he receives a command.
- iv) And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” (14:18)
- (1) Who has authority over the fire
- (a) Fire is generally used in connection with God’s judgment.
- (b) Ezekiel 9:1-2 - 1 Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, “Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand.” 2 And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.
- (c) Rev. 8:1-5 - Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
- (2) “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.”
- (a) This second reaping is specified as grapes from the vine, which is the command the angel of 14:17 was awaiting.
- (i) Why grapes?
- (ii) Rev. 14:9-10 - 9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
- (b) The wine of God’s wrath is the reason grapes are used.
- (c) Then angel giving the command has authority over fire.

- (3) So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. (14:19)
- (4) And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia. (14:20)
- (a) Crushing of grapes in the winepress was used in the O. T. as a figure of the justice of God.
- (i) Isaiah 63:3-6 - **3** "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. **4** For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. **5** I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. **6** I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."
- (ii) Lamentations 1:15 - "The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah.
- (iii) Joel 3:13 - Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.
- (iv) Rev. 19:11-16 - ... From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ...
- (b) As Christians had been crushed by their persecutors, so the persecutors would be crushed.
- (c) Outside the city
- (i) If there is any reference to a specific city, it is probably the New Jerusalem, the holy city, where God dwells with the redeemed.
1. Rev. 21:1-27 - ... But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- (d) blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.
- (i) A horse's bridle would be 4-5 feet off the grounds.

- (ii) Stadia is a Roman measurement = 607 feet, so 1,600 stadia would be about 184 miles.
- (iii) Some have calculated that the human body contains about 5 quarts of blood, 57.75 cubic inches. To fill such a river would require the blood of 120 billion people.
- (iv) But it is not a literal river; the idea is that no one will escape the wrath of God.

5) Brief summary of chapter 14

- a) The scenes of chapter 14 have purposes
 - i) Comfort Christians who were being persecuted
 - ii) Warn Christians who were tempted to abandon the faith and worship the image of the beast.
 - iii) May also warn the world, at least those who heard or read the message, of the terrible consequences of falling under the wrath of God.

6) Pictures



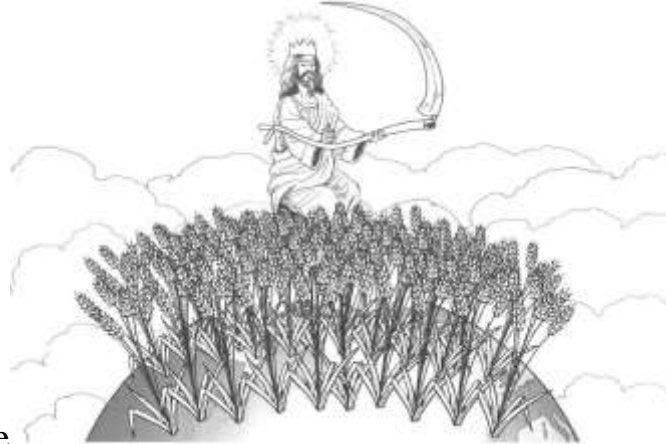
a) Lamb standing on Mt. Zion



b) Angel in Mid-heaven



c) Seductress Babylon



d) Sitting on cloud with sickle



e) Reaping



f) Smoke of their torment



g) Winepress