



THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH REVELATION CHAPTER 14 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 14

In Revelation chapter 14 John looked, and there before him was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

John looked again, and there before him was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."



Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Revelation 14:15 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 14 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, stood on the Mount Zion in heaven. Zion on earth is the southern hill in the city of Jerusalem, was a name also given to the whole city; and, as that was the seat of the divine worship on earth, and in Revelation it became in heaven the dwelling place of God. The scene of the vision here is laid in heaven, for it is a vision of the ultimate triumph of the redeemed, designed to sustain the church in view of the trials they were then experiencing under the Romans, and of those which were yet to come from Mohammad when the seal and trumpet plagues were released.

Twice in the Book of Revelation, John describes a group consisting of a symbolic 144,000. In chapter 7:1-8 John heard of 144,000 (12,000 each from twelve different Israelite tribes) servants of God who had been sealed on their foreheads. The seal of God indicates they were redeemed people.

Revelation 7:1-4 (NIV)

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Also, in Revelation 7:9-17 John saw *"a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language."* These too were redeemed individuals who *"are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* They had victoriously triumphed over tribulation, and they served God continuously in his temple.

There are differences of opinion among reputable Bible scholars as to the identity of the 144,000 in both Revelation 7 and 14. Some Bible scholars argue that the number referred to those who were saved from the physical nation of Israel. Others believe this group is spiritual Israel, i.e., the Church. Still others believe the 144,000 are symbolic of the Messianic Jews that are part of the Church. Since the second century, most Messianic Jews have come to faith only since 1967. Estimates vary, but many believe there are more than 250,000 Messianic Jews in the world today in 2020. If the 144,000 is symbolic of Messianic Jews joining the Church, the prophecy is fulfilled today.

The origins of end times Messianic Jews can be traced back to the Hebrew Christian missions to the Jews in the 19th and early 20th centuries. After 1967, Messianic Judaism was gaining popularity, known by many as "the Jesus people," and eventually "Jews for Jesus." When Messianic Jews try to do outreach within the mainstream Jewish community they are often met with resistance and outrage. Among other things, the Jewish community objects to the title Messianic Judaism, because Messianic Jews are Jesus-focused, and thus by Rabbinical definition "not Jewish."

Rev 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

“And I heard a sound from heaven.” The same with the voices heard in heaven upon the sounding of the seventh trumpet as in Revelation 11:1.

“Like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder.” John could give no comparison that could express better than to simply say that it was like the roar of the ocean. The greatness of the voice is evidence of the vastness of the number.

“The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.” That is singing the praises of God, for the fall of Babylon, the destruction of the great city of Mecca with its false worship to the dragon and the beast in the Kaaba, the happy state and condition of the church, and the blessings of grace.

Rev 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

“And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.” It is a new heavenly song, and no spirit dulled by earthly desires and sin can learn it. Those that pray to Babylon in the Kaaba with their musical call to Islamic daily prayer five times a day will never learn this new song. It is the same “new song” sung by the four living creatures and 24 elders in Revelation 5:8-10. No Jews other than the redeemed can sing this new song in heaven. It is a song to the Lamb of God. Only those with their name in the Book of Life will be able to sing the new song to the lamb.



THE NEW SONG IN HEAVEN

In Revelation 5:8-10 the “new song” is also sung by the four living creatures and the 24 elders.

Revelation 5:8-10 (NIV)

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

NEW SONG LYRICS

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Other Revelation Bible text tells us more about these symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God.

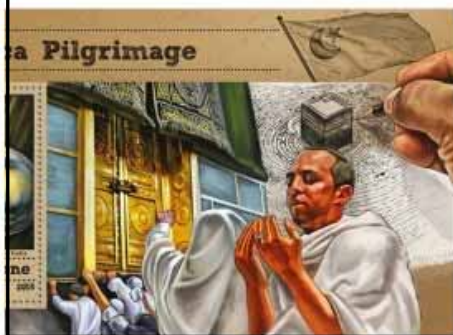
1. John calls the 144,000 “*fellow servants*” and “*servants of our God*” in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 6:11, 7:3)
2. The four angels are not allowed to “*harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God*”; until accepting Jesus Christ. (Revelation 7:3)
3. The 144,000 Jews will receive the spiritual seal of God. They accept Jesus Christ and become His disciples. (Revelation 7:3)
4. They “*were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.*” They are the Jews that the blood of Jesus purchased. (Revelation 14:4)
5. They will not be defiled with the harlot of Babylon. (Revelation 14:4)
6. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. (Revelation 14:4)
7. Unlike the numberless multitude of Gentiles “*from every nation, tribe, people and language*”, the 144,000 are a small enough group of Jews to be numbered. (Revelation 7:5-14)
8. The 144,000 will experience and endure the sufferings of Christ. They will be honored above all other Jews since they are the redeemed remnant. (Revelation 14:1-3)
9. They fulfill the Jews returning to Israel that accept Christ; “*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life*”. (Daniel 12:2)
10. No other Jews will sing their new song, since they are not in the Book of Life. (Revelation 14:3)
11. No lie or falsehood will be found in the mouths of the 144,000. The blood of Jesus has taken away their sins (Revelation 14:5) Jesus is a better sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:23-28)
12. The 144,000 will wear the spiritual mark of the names of the Father and Son on their foreheads throughout eternity. (Revelation 14:1; Revelation 22:3, 4)
13. Their mark is the opposite of the mark of the beast, the Shahada. (Revelation 13:16-18)
14. The 144,000 will be Messianic Jews, descendants of Abraham. (Revelation 7:4-8)

Rev 14:4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins.” Some have tried to interpret this literally as celibate men that have never had sex with a woman. Revelation 14:4 is not referring to men living in a monastery. The focus on Revelation is a warning about spiritual immorality—believing the false doctrinal teaching of the harlot woman—the great city of Mecca.

The word rendered here “defiled” is a word that cannot be applied to the marriage relation. It means properly to “soil, to stain, to defile.” It is also used in Revelation 3:4; *“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.”* The word does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament, except in Revelation. It cannot be construed as an expression against marriage and in favor of celibacy. It is a word that is properly expressive of illicit sexual intercourse - of impurity and unchastity of life - and the statement is referring to spiritual impurity, that they who are saved are not impure and unchaste in worshipping the true God.



These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins.

Revelation 14:4a (NIV)

There is little doubt that these words are intended in a spiritual sense. In the Old Testament the employment of the figure of adultery and fornication to denote spiritual unfaithfulness is common.

Jeremiah 3:9 (NIV)

Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood.

The Book of Revelation gives many warnings about the spiritual immorality coming from the teachings from Mohammad and the great city of Mecca. The 144,000 remained faithful even when their lives were at risk to convert to Islam or other false religions. The 144,000 have avoided praying to the Kaaba, they did not recite the Shahada-the mark of the beast, they did not believe the Qur'an from the false prophet Mohammad, they did not worship the dragon, and did not kiss the Blackstone of Baal.

Revelation 17:1-2 (NIV)

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

Revelation 18:9-10 (NIV)

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

Revelation 19:1-2 (NIV)

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. These follow Christ in humility, patience, and love; and in the performance of their duties, and the commandments of Jesus, and in the path of sufferings; and in every way in which Christ the Lamb has gone before them, or in his word and Holy Spirit leads and directs them. Concerning the verse *“offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb”*, this seems to imply that the 144,000 do not represent the whole number of the elect, but a specially sanctified number from among them. Paul, In Romans 8:22-23, writes about the importance of the first fruits.

Romans 8:22-23 (NIV)

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

The first fruits were the best of their kind (see Numbers 18:12), selected from the rest, and consecrated to the service of God. So the redeemed are the best of their kind; they who have proved themselves faithful to God, who voluntarily separated themselves from the world, and consecrated themselves to the service of God while in the world, and who are thus afterwards separated by him and consecrated to his service forever.

“No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.” They had not listened to Mohammad; they did not say the Shahada to be tricked into worship of the first beast.

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

The gospel is eternal in its unalterable nature, and in contrast to the Qur'an and power of Baal the beast, which is set for destruction. Every nation, tribe, language and people shall hear the gospel.

Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV)

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!



But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

Galatians 1:8 (NIV)

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has added about following the false prophet, and worship to the image of the beast (praying to the Kaaba) will face the wrath of God: *"If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll."*

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

A warning from Jesus! Do not take anything away from the text. Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has taken away from Jesus concerning the truth of His resurrection; that Jesus is the Son of God, and His atoning sacrifice will face the wrath of God: *"God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."*

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.” His judgment on Baal the beast and on those who worship him and pray to the Kaaba. The imagery here is substantially the same as in Daniel 7:9-11 and there can be no doubt that there is reference to the same subject.

Daniel 7:9-11 (NIV)

As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

God shall cause his gospel to spread through the world, and then there will be a solemn judgment on the false prophet, the false gospel of the Qur’an and the anti-Christian power which had so long resisted his truth and persecuted his saints.

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

At the time when John wrote the book of Revelation, this power was preeminently possessed and wielded by Rome, and that empire may thus be intended as the immediate antitype of “Babylon.” But the description is fully applicable to the persecuting power of Islam and the great city of Mecca.

After the fall of Babylon, Baal was sent into the Abyss. He was “restrained” at the time of Paul and John. Once the restrainer was removed (the angel guarding the Abyss) Baal was revealed. Baal was the demonic spirit “Gabriel” acting under orders and with authority from Satan, to give a “powerful delusion” to Mohammad. His believers *“drink the maddening wine of her adulteries”* and pray to the Kaaba, not knowing what they really do.



Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,

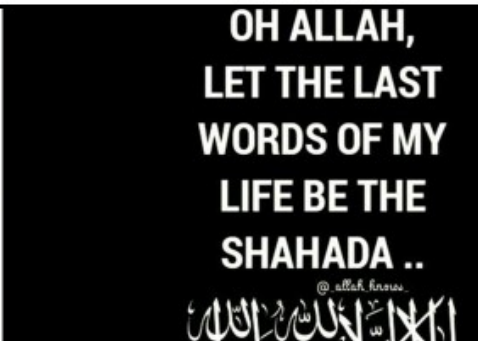
End times prophecy must be able to explain how the dragon and beast are both worshipped intentionally and simultaneously by a third of the world. Islam is the only system that does this. Islam is the greatest paradox. Islam claims to be the leader in monotheist thinking (with the mark-the Shahada; "no God but Allah"), and yet worship both the "Allah" of the Koran (Satan), and then must pray five times a day to the Kaaba, the home of Baal the beast. They worship two distinct demonic spiritual entities, just like the Bible says will happen. The Bible says the false prophet will lead them to do this. Muhammad led them to do it. Jesus said they would worship both the dragon and beast.

Revelation 13:4 (NIV)

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

Jesus said Satan is the “father of lies.” (John 8:44) In the Qur'an, Satan accuses Christians of worshipping multiple Gods, when in fact Christians worship One God. Jesus is God and monotheism is Christian truth. Satan has deceived the followers of Mohammad into thinking they worship God, when in fact they worship both the dragon and the beast.

Satan has turned the argument 180 degrees around in the wrong direction! The truth is Christians are monotheists and those that follow the false prophet Mohammad are polytheists, because they worship two spirits (the dragon and the beast), having been deceived that they are worshipping the true God. Satan is a great liar and deceiver. The dragon is Satan and the beast is Baal. Baal dwells in the Kaaba, the "great city" of Revelation 17-19. It is the image of the beast.



A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,”

Revelation 14:9 (NIV)

Rev 14:10 they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

They, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. Jesus will deliver a just punishment for their sin; they will receive the wine of the wrath because of Mecca's fornication with Satan and Baal. They have rejected the atoning sacrifice from Jesus. There is no path to the Father but through Jesus. The "Lawless One", Baal, has deceived them with a false gospel—the Qur'an. Paul said: "they refused to love the truth and so be saved."

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NIV)

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. They will suffer forever while still being able to see the Lamb and his angels. They will regret listening to the false prophet Mohammad and his Qur'an. The Lamb they rejected will be their Judge, and Jesus will condemn them to everlasting burnings, and pronounce the sentence on them. His angels will be the executioners of it; they will gather them out, and sever them from the righteous, and cast them into the lake of fire, and will be spectators of their punishment, and rejoice at it; and the sight of their power and glory of the righteous will increase the torment of the sufferers.



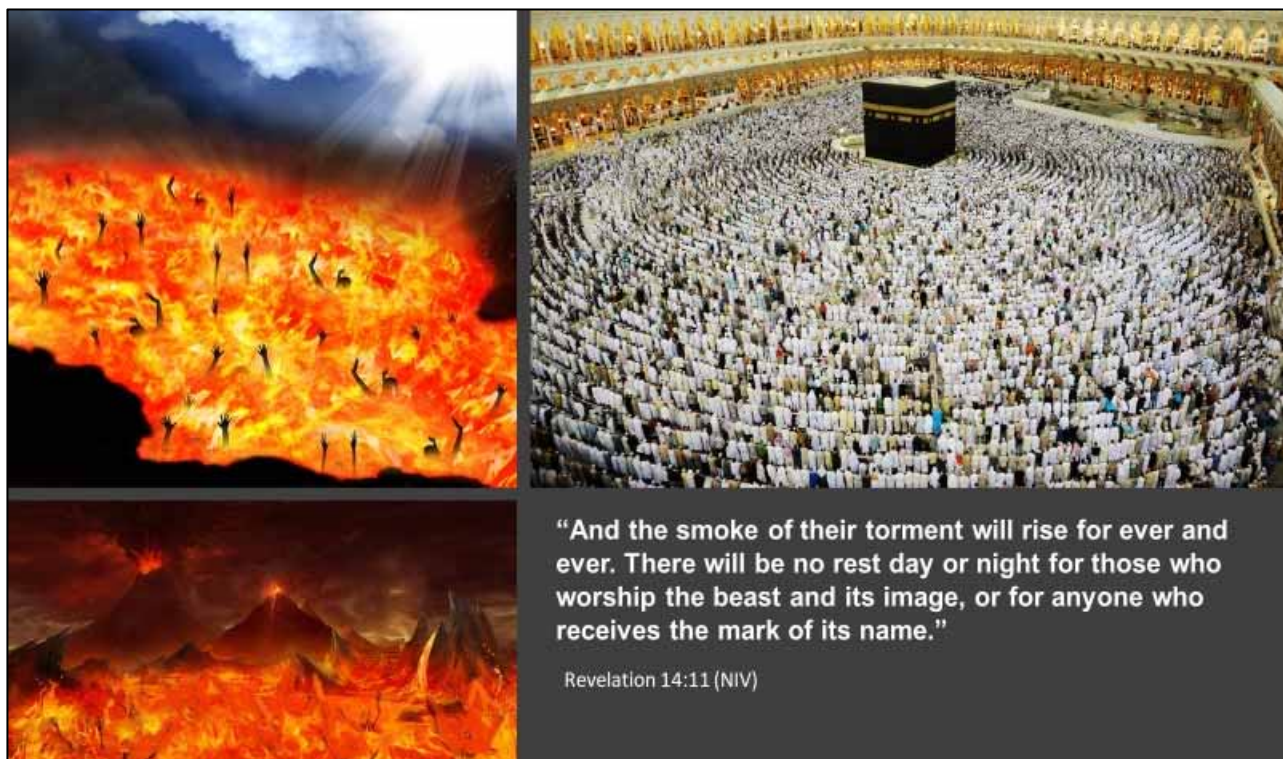
**They, too, will drink the wine of God's
fury, which has been poured full
strength into the cup of his wrath.**

Revelation 14:10a (NIV)

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

“And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.” In the Book of Revelation, smoke refers to prayers or requests to God for help. It is not literal smoke. Those that are cast into the lake of fire in the presence of the Lamb and His angels will pray for ever and ever to be released from this hell. But they made their decision to follow the false prophet Mohammad, recite the Shahada and pray to Baal in the Kaaba. In hell their prayers will not help them.

This implies that their torments continued and is the cause of ascending smoke; that is, that they were tormented while it ascended; and, as this is declared to be "forever and ever." The sufferings of the wicked will be eternal: and this is such language as would not have been used in a revelation from God, unless the punishment of the wicked is eternal.



“There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” "Day and night" include all time; and hence, the phrase is used to denote perpetuity - "always." The meaning here is, that they never have any rest - any interval of pain. This is stated as a circumstance strongly expressive of the severity of their torment.

On earth some type of limited rest comes to the sufferer. The prisoner in his cell lies down on his bed, though hard, and sleeps; the overworked slave has also intervals of sleep; the eyes of the mourner are closed as they forget their loss as they sleep. There is no pain that we endure on earth that is perpetual. The person, sooner or later, finds the luxury of sleep, or will find rest in the grave. But the “second death” involving the perpetual smoke (cries for help) will be one of the bitterest ingredients in the cup of woe, in the world of despair, that even the simple luxury of death will be denied forever.

Rev 14:12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

Far too often dispensational thinking causes Christians in the Western democracies safe from persecution to ignore the cries of their brothers and sisters in Christ. They believe, because they are temporarily safe, the “tribulation” must be in the future, and they will be safely raptured before the “bad stuff” happens. Here John reminds all of us that as we go through the tribulation, whether from Rome or Mohammad, the Bible encourages Christians in their trials by the assurance, that this formidable anti-Christian power of Satan and Baal will be overthrown, and that all the enemies of God would receive their just doom in the world of despair. Fearful as that doctrine is, and terrible as is the idea of the everlasting suffering of any of the creatures of God, yet the final overthrow of the wicked is necessary to the triumph of truth and holiness, and there is consolation in the knowledge that the true religion will ultimately triumph.

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” This phrase “**from now on**” has given much perplexity to prophecy experts, and it has been variously interpreted. Most have connected it with the word “blessed” – “*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*” The phrase “*from now on*” literally means from 95 AD onwards.

This passage gives much strength that the tribulation has existed since the time of the Apostles. If the tribulation was only for 3 ½ years, and only for those believers living just before the return of Christ, the wording would have been much different. It would have read more like: “*Blessed are those that die in the future great tribulation, in the last 3 ½ years before Christ returns.*” But it does not say that because the tribulation has existed since the time of the Apostles. This is why John writes: *Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”*

This phrase of “*who die in the Lord*” is applicable to any persons that die united to Christ by a true and lively faith; all such die in the Lord. But if we consider the Revelation usage of it, it seems to particularly signify martyrs as they die for the Lord.

“*Yes,*” says the Spirit, “*they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.*” The first part explains a part of the “*blessed*” of the previous passage; in this their rest is part of their blessing. The last clause, “*for their deeds will follow them*”, explains why the blessedness consists in rest; they have no need of labors, for the effects of their former works accompany them and permit them now complete rest. In Revelation 14:11 we see the opposite fate of the wicked, those that follow Satan and Baal. They never get to rest. There will no rest day or night for those that pray to the Kaaba.

Revelation 14:11 (NIV)

And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

Rev 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

Rev 14:15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

Revelation 14:14-16 describes the rapture, the harvest of the believers before the wrath of God is released. The angel acts as the messenger of the will of God to Christ in his capacity of Son of man, because the command is one concerning the times and seasons which the Father hath kept in his own power. *“Seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head.”* The term “son of man” was first used in Daniel 7:13-14.

Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV)

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

The first harvest refers to the selection by Christ of the faithful at the end of the world, while the second (Revelation 14:17-20) describes the ingathering of the wicked for punishment in the winepress immediately afterwards. This accounts also for the first gathering being presided over by the Son of man, while the second is conducted by an angel. The two harvests follow in rapid order with no interlude between them.



Rev 14:16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

The punishment in connection with the Revelation 14:17-20 distinguishes it from this first harvest which is the rapture of believers. This also corresponds to the announcements of the former angels, who first preach the everlasting gospel, and afterwards denounce those who serve the beast Baal. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 and Luke in Luke 17:34-36 tells us the first harvest (the rapture) will be sudden, loud and seen by all. The rapture is not a secret.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NIV)

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Luke 17:34-36 (NIV)

I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."



So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Revelation 14:16 (NIV)

UNDERSTANDING THE PAROUSIA OF CHRIST

The second harvest immediately follows the first. The wrath of God immediately follows the rapture of Christians. The Parousia is a theological concept that comes from the Greek word parousia meaning “official coming” or “presence.” In the study of Bible prophecy, the term parousia is used in reference to the Coming of Jesus Christ. Paul uses the same word “parousia” for both the rapture and second coming of Christ. The parousia is sudden and will be seen by all. There is no “secret” rapture in the Bible.

PAROUSIA VERSES

The rapture and Second Coming are simultaneous events--the "parousia." (2 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 16:17; 2 Corinthians 7:6,7; Philippians 1:26, 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1,8; James 5:7,8; 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4,12; 1 John 2:28)

The return of Christ is called “His parousia” by Matthew and Mark in Matthew 24:3 and in Mark 13:3. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:23, James in James 5:7-11, Peter in 2 Peter 3:4 and John in 1 John 2:28-29 all call the return of Christ a parousia. The parousia of Christ will be seen and heard universally according to both Matthew and Paul

Matthew 24:27 (NIV)

“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord is associated with the parousia of Christ.

Matthew 24:29 (NIV)

“Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NIV)

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

Rev 14:17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”

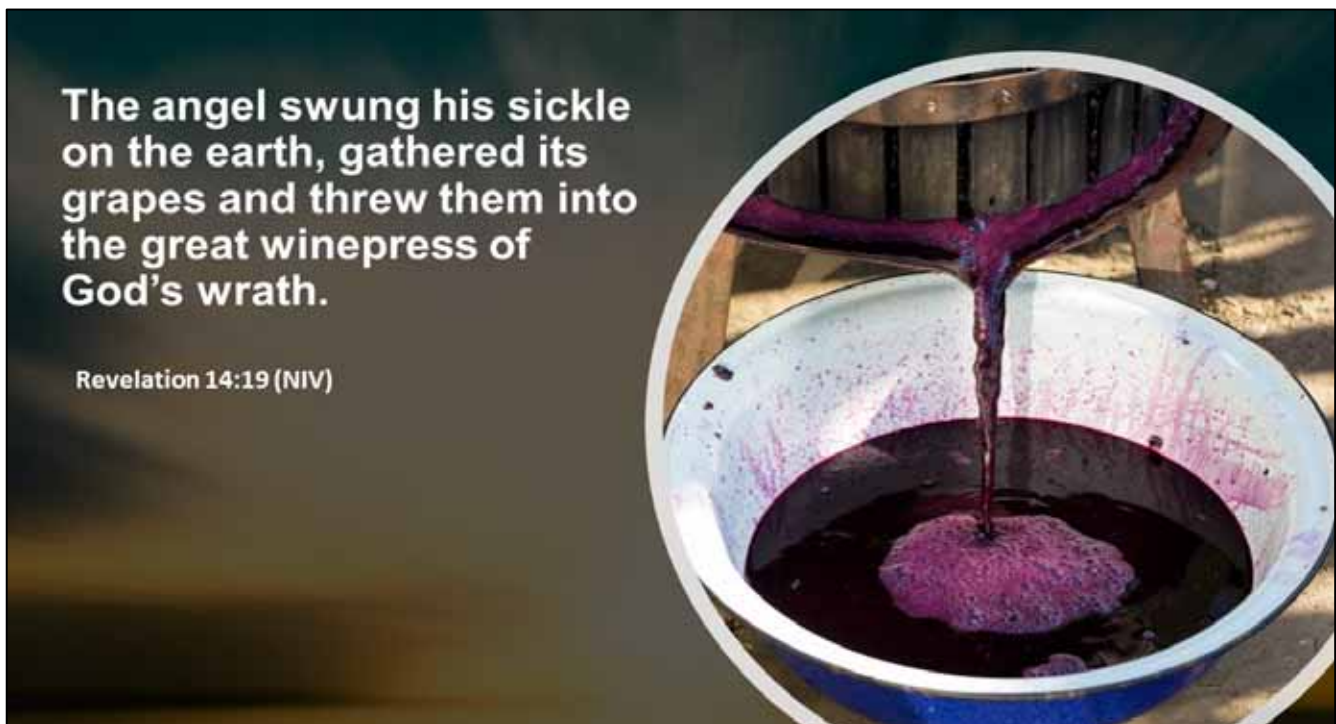
Rev 14:19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.

Rev 14:20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

In Revelation 14:17-20 the wrath of God is poured out right after the rapture—the first harvest of the earth. *“Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”* The seven bowls of wrath in Revelation chapter 16 are now poured out on the non-believers left on the earth. Those that follow Mohammad, read the Qur’an, say the Shahada and pray to Baal in the Kaaba. *“Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar.”* Both in Revelation 6:9 and Revelation 8:3 the altar is connected with judgment. The angel here described is he who is referred to in those places, the fire being the fire of the altar, the fire of judgment. The “sickle” and the “wine press” are both from Joel 3:12-13.

Joel 3:12-13 (NIV)

“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!”



**WHERE IS “THE CITY?” IS IT JERUSALEM OR THE WICKED GREAT CITY OF MECCA?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF 1,600 STADIA DISTANCE?**

“They were trampled in the winepress outside the city.” John describes God’s wrath (Revelation chapter 16, the seven bowls) as occurring outside of the city. Is this city Jerusalem or the wicked great city of the harlot described in Revelation chapters 17-19? Since it involves punishment of those following the beast in the Kaaba, this is most likely the wicked great city of Mecca in Babylon. Mecca is represented as the abode of the wicked demons; *“She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit”* (Revelation 18:2). The wine-press was usually in the vineyard - not in the city - and this is the representation here. As appearing to the vision of John, it was not within the walls of the city, but standing outside of the city.



IN 622 MOHAMMAD TRAVELED FROM OUTSIDE MECCA TO MEDINA—1,600 STADIA

“And blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.” The distance of 1,600 stadia is slightly less than 200 miles. This is the distance from outside Mecca to Medina. It is the exact distance of Mohammad’s first Hajj to honor the beast Baal. This date, 622, marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar. Daniel 7:25; (*“try to change the set times and the laws.”*)

John also tells us the blood was as high *“as the horses’ bridles”*, or about six feet. But John does not tell us any more dimensions. We do not know how wide the lake of blood is. We only know distance and height. Thus we cannot calculate the volume of blood, or by inference, the number of people involved. Without the width, any calculation about volume is pure speculation. This is designed to represent a great slaughter; but why the 1,600 stadia distance is given is a mystery to most Bible prophecy experts. Perhaps John wants us to focus only on the distance--the 1,600 stadia.

MOHAMMAD'S 1,600 STADIA DEPARTURE JOURNEY OR "HIJRA"

The Hijra, meaning "departure" is the migration or journey of the false prophet Mohammad and his followers from Mecca to Yathrib, later renamed by him to Medina, in the year 622. In June 622, after being warned of a plot to assassinate him, Mohammad secretly left his home in Mecca to emigrate to Yathrib, 310 km (about 1,600 stadia) north of outside Mecca, along with his companion Abu Bakr. Abu Bakr is the rider on the red horse in Revelation 6:3-4. Yathrib was soon renamed to "Medina", meaning "the city of the prophet."

The Muslim year during which the Hijra occurred was designated the first year of the Islamic calendar by Umar in 638 or 17 AH (anno hegirae = "in the year of the Hijrah"). The Islamic calendar was invented by Umar, the rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5-6. Umar also is given credit for inventing Islamic Shariah law, thus fulfilling Daniel 7:25. (*"try to change the set times and the laws."*) Umar started to build the al-Aqsa Mosque. The final seven is 7 x 360, or 2,520 Old Testament years. The middle of the seven is 706, the year the al-Aqsa Mosque was finished on the wing of the Temple Mount. The three and one times, or the second half of the seven, ended in 1948.

Daniel 7:25 (NIV)

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.



**FROM OUTSIDE THE WICKED GREAT CITY OF MECCA TO MEDINA
THE DISTANCE MOHAMMAD TRAVELED WAS 1,600 STADIA**