

LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

Rev. 14:1-13

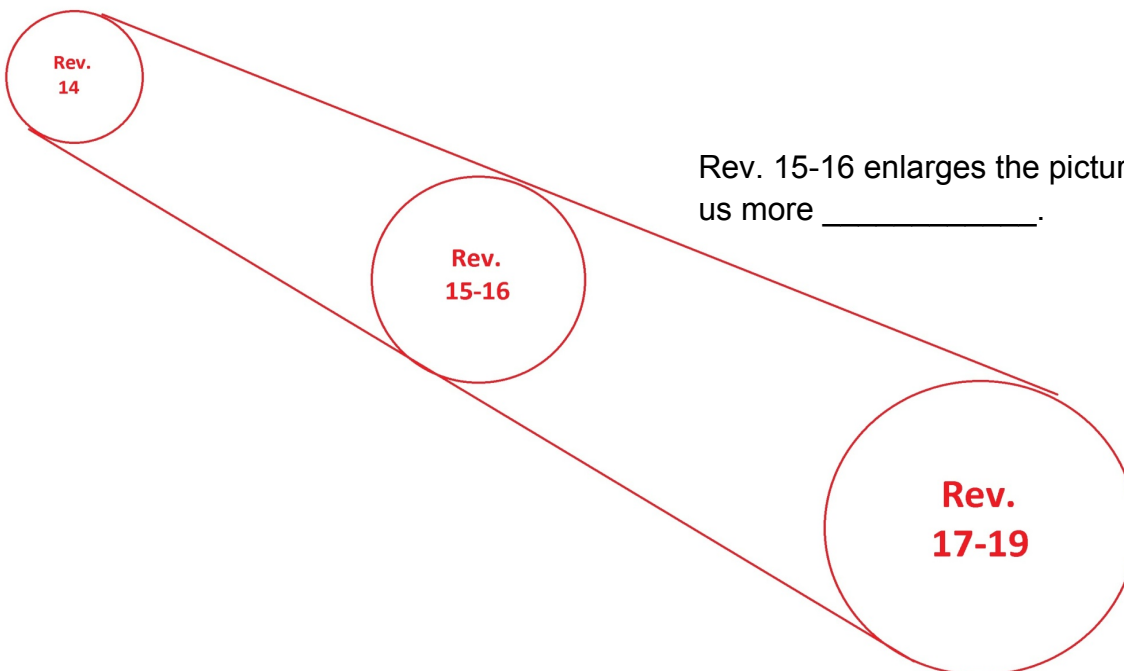
Introduction: A number of weeks ago, I warned you that the chronology of Revelation from chapter 12 to chapter 19 becomes a bit more complicated to follow. Let me repeat the summary I offered you:

Revelation 4 – 9 The _____ half of the tribulation
Revelation 10 The character of the last half of the tribulation – sweet and bitter
Revelation 11 The _____ of the tribulation (3 ½ years from the beginning)
Revelation 12 – 14 An overview of general conditions in the _____ half of the tribulation
Revelation 15 – 19 Events in the last half of the tribulation in _____ order

The good news is that once you understand this chronology, the events described make a lot more sense. Now, let me show you one other thing that will help even more.

What we have in Revelation, chapters 14 to 19 is a _____ view of the end of this age.

Rev. 14 gives us the _____.



Rev. 15-16 enlarges the picture and gives us more _____.

Rev. 17-19 _____ the picture yet again and provides us with still more detail.

Understanding this prevents confusion when you find references to the Battle of _____ in chapters 14, 16, and 19. If you do _____ understand that each of these is describing the _____ period of time, you end up asking,

- “When is the Battle of Armageddon?”
- “Does it come at the end of 14, the middle of 16, or the end of 19?”

- The answer is “Yes, all three.”
 - It gets one verse in chapter 14,
 - several verses in chapter 16,
 - and eleven verses in chapter 19.

Today, we are working only in the first circle, Rev. 14.

I. THE COLLECTING OF THE FIRST FRUITS (Rev. 14:1-5)

Rev. 14:1-5 **1** Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. **3** They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. **4** These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

A. We know Who the Lamb is – _____

B. Who are the 144,000?

We have already identified them also when we examined Rev. 7:3-8.

- These are the **12,000 _____** from each of the twelve tribes of Israel who were **saved and _____** after the sixth seal judgment.
- They have **been traveling around the earth preaching the gospel to every nation.**
- **As a result of their witness, many people** of every tribe and nation, race and language, **have been _____** (Rev. 7:9-14).

This group of 144,000 has been easily identifiable because they bore the seal of God upon their _____.

The oldest (and probably the best) ancient texts of 14:1 read like the ESV translation:

Revelation 14:1 (ESV) 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.

This seal consisted of two names:

- The name of the Lamb, _____
- The name of the Father, _____

Now we learn some more things about the 144,000 we did not learn in chapter 7. They were all _____ and _____ (did not defile themselves with women).

1. First they were _____ in the physical sense. This is not to imply that chastity is desired by God for all people in this age. In fact, such would be the opposite of His command to replenish the earth. However, Paul tells us of individuals who remain chaste to avoid entanglements that might _____ their service in the kingdom of God. I believe that such is the case here. When God chose the 144,000 He picked single, chaste young men who were unencumbered by _____ responsibilities. Thus they remained in order to complete their most urgent task of preaching the gospel to every people group in the world.
2. But there is also a spiritual meaning here. Chastity is often used in the Bible to mean spiritual _____, undefiled love for and _____ to God. It is the highest form of separation. (Hosea 1-3 provides an extended passage in which one can see how chastity and harlotry are used in a spiritual sense.) The message concerning the 144,000 is that they kept themselves separate, pure, and spotless from the _____ of the world.

Now their work is over and God redeems them from mankind as

_____ **for God and the Lamb.** In Old Testament times the firstfruits of every harvest were to be given to God as an offering. It was a way of dedicating to the Almighty the _____ of the crop. Now the 144,000 are the firstfruits of the redeemed still upon the earth. They go to be with the Lamb, signifying that soon the rest will be with Him also.

C. Where are the 144,000?

They appear with the Lamb on Mt. _____. The only question is:

- Is this earthly Zion, Jerusalem;
- or is this the heavenly Zion?

Several things indicate the latter.

- The 144,000 sing before the _____.
- They sing before the four living creatures.
- They sing before the _____.

Where are the throne, living creatures, and elders? In _____ **Throne Room**

They have been obedient in preaching the _____ of the Lamb Who was slain, now they _____ the Lamb wherever He goes, and they _____ a song to Him no one else knows.

II. PREPARATION FOR THE HARVEST (Rev. 14:6-13)

Revelation 14:6–13 **6** Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— **7** saying

with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." 9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

To make preparation for the two coming harvests, God sends _____ angels to fly around the earth delivering a message from heaven.

A. Why does God use angels?

1. Because the _____ is gone.
2. Because the Two _____ are gone.
3. Now the _____ are gone.

B. The First Angel

- This angel flies in mid-heaven and **proclaims the** _____.
- He also issues a _____ that the hour of God's judgment has come.

C. The Second Angel

Announces the fall of _____. (The details of this are in the chapters to come.)

D. The Third Angel

Warns the followers of the beast of the coming _____ of God and eternal judgment. Then he adds, "_____, you believers who are left. You who die in the Lord will be happy."