

“The Glory of God and the Grapes of Wrath.”

November 3, 2024

Text: Rev 14:1-15:4

Sermon Series: “The Unveiling: The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

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Big Idea: Who survives God’s final judgment on the world? How does one survive God’s final judgment on the world?

God’s final judgment and grace are seen through the witness of the saints, the warnings of the angels, and the separation of the righteous from the wicked in the final harvest.

I. The People of God Standing (vv. 1-5)

1. **The Vision of the Lamb on Mount Zion (v. 1)**
 - The Lamb (Jesus) standing with 144,000, signifying triumph and divine protection.
 - The mark of God on their foreheads, symbolizing ownership and loyalty to God.
2. **The Worship and Song of the Redeemed (vv. 2-3)**
 - A new song sung only by the 144,000, representing the unique relationship and testimony of the redeemed.
3. **The Purity and Integrity of the Saints (vv. 4-5)**
 - They are described as morally pure, truthful, and blameless, dedicated to following Christ wherever He goes.

Application: Just as the 144,000 are set apart by their faithfulness, we are called to stand firm with Christ, remaining pure and steadfast in our witness to the world.

II. The Three Angels' Messages: The Final Warnings (vv. 6-13)

1. **The First Angel: The Call to Fear God and Worship (vv. 6-7)**
 - The angel proclaims the everlasting gospel to all nations, urging people to fear God and give Him glory.
 - The hour of judgment has come, and true worship is directed to the Creator.
2. **The Second Angel: The Fall of Babylon (v. 8)**
 - Babylon symbolizes the corrupt world system opposed to God, and this angel announces its inevitable fall due to its immoral influence on the nations.
3. **The Third Angel: The Warning against Worshiping the Beast (vv. 9-11)**
 - The angel warns of severe judgment on those who worship the beast and receive its mark, emphasizing the eternal consequences of rebellion against God.

Application: The world faces a choice—either to heed God’s warning and repent or face His coming judgment. We are called to proclaim this gospel message with urgency.

III. The Two Harvests: The Final Separation (vv. 14-20)

Key Point: The harvest of the earth represents the final judgment, where God separates the righteous from the wicked.

1. **The Son of Man Reaping the Harvest of the Righteous (vv. 14-16)**

- Jesus, depicted as the Son of Man with a sickle, reaps the earth, symbolizing the gathering of the righteous into God's eternal kingdom.
2. **The Angel Reaping the Grapes of Wrath (vv. 17-20)**
- Another angel reaps the wicked, gathering them for the winepress of God's wrath.
 - The vivid imagery of the winepress outside the city and the blood flowing as high as a horse's bridle symbolizes the totality of God's judgment on the unrepentant.

Application: The harvest reminds us of the certainty of God's judgment, but also His mercy in providing a way of salvation. This should motivate us to live in readiness and faithfulness, knowing the time of the harvest is coming.

IV. The People of God singing (15:1-4)

1. The song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.
 2. What kind of song do you sing?
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Conclusion: Revelation 14:1-15:4 presents both the hope of the redeemed and the sobering reality of God's judgment. As we reflect on the Lamb's faithful followers, the final warnings of the angels, and the coming harvest, we are reminded to remain steadfast in our faith, to proclaim God's message of salvation, and to live in anticipation of Christ's return.