

# Revelation

**16**

**Chapter 14**

## ***Revelation 14:1-5***

***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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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 firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.***

## **Revelation 14:1-5**

**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.**

The lamb (Jesus) is standing on Mount Zion. (The mountain on which Jerusalem is found.) Mount Zion is also the location of the heavenly Jerusalem so Jesus is not necessarily standing on the earth.

## **Hebrews 12:22-23**

**But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup> to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,**

## **Revelation 14:1-5**

***<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And they sang (ado) a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. .***

**The sound was LIKE (it was not really these things) – rushing waters, a peal of thunder, and harp playing. It was continuous, loud, and melodious. It WAS singing (**ADO**) of a song by those before the throne.**

## **Revelation 14:1-5**

***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.***

***..... No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.***

**The 144,00 were found previously in Rev 7:4 – they were the saved from the tribes of Israel. The 144,000 is not a literal number, but is 12X12X1000 – symbolically the complete large number of those saved. These are the ones who are singing before the throne.**

## **Revelation 14:1-5**

***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.***

***..... They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.***

The 'firstfruits' were the first of the harvest. It was that part specifically given to God in trust of receiving the rest of the harvest. The gospel was first taken to the Jewish people so they would represent the firstfruits of the kingdom.

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

## **Revelation 14:1-5**

***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 firstfruits to God and the Lamb. 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.***

Keeping in mind, that this is a symbolic vision, the fact that they are called virgins, means that they had not defiled themselves with other gods – they were blameless before God. Christians are also called ‘virgins’ with Christ as the husband. -

***2 Corinthians 11:2-3 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.***

## **Revelation 14:6-12**

***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. <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.” <sup>12</sup> This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.***



## ***Revelation 14:6-12***

***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. <sup>7</sup> 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.”***

**The first angel is bringing the gospel to all people on the earth.**

**Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**

**Colossians 1:23 . This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.**

**Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

***<sup>8</sup> A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”***

**The second angel announces the demise of ‘Babylon the Great’. In other words – the fall of Rome, which was dominating the other nations, is at hand .**

**This is similar to the announcement Isaiah saw in a vision about the fall of the actual city of Babylon –**

**Isaiah 21:9**

**Look, here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses.  
And he gives back the answer: ‘Babylon has fallen, has fallen!’  
All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!”**

***<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.***

The third angel confirms that those who worship the beast (the emperor) will face the full fury of the Lord’s wrath. They gave to a mere human the praise and worship that belongs only to God.

***<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.”***

The third angel confirms that those who worship the beast (the emperor) will face the full fury of the Lord’s wrath. They gave to a mere human the praise and worship that belongs only to God.

***They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> 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.”***

**Tormented with burning sulfur, this sounds like the description of hell – lake of burning sulfur, torment, no rest, and will last for eternity.**

## **Revelation 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.”***

**Rest and reward for the faithful to God , as opposed to the eternal punishment for those who worshipped the emperor.**

**Note that what John is seeing is a vision of what will happen at the future judgment. This is made clear by the fact that it says “**Blessed are the dead who die from now on.**” If this were the time of the actual final judgment, there would be no more death.**

# Revelation

**Lesson 16**

**Chapters 14, 15**

**Wednesday Feb 7**

**7 P.M.**

**Arlington Church of Christ**

**John has just seen a vision of three angels bringing messages:**

- the first saying that the gospel is being taken to the whole world**
  - The second saying that Rome is going to fall (the city of Rome was ‘officially’ fallen in 476 AD according to history)**
  - The third warning them not to give in to the pressure to worship the emperor, and that those who do so will face eternal punishment.**
- The vision now turns to the separation of those who were faithful, and those who had rejected God or given in to emperor worship –symbolically described as a ‘reaping process’ - something the Christians at that time were every familiar with. This is symbolically like the “sealing of the faithful” to protect them from the punishment of God on the wicked (seen previously in Revelation 7).**

## **Revelation 14:14-19**

***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. <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.***

***<sup>17</sup> Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.***





## **Revelation 14:14-19**

***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. <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.***

***<sup>17</sup> Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.***

**Sickles are symbolic of reaping. The harvest is ripe and it is time to gather those on the earth. The grain would be cut with a sickle and then tied in bundles to be gathered up. This is symbolically describing the separation of the faithful and the wicked . The faithful are protected, the wicked are being punished.**

## **Revelation 14:14-19**

**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.** <sup>16</sup> So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

<sup>17</sup> **Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ....** <sup>19</sup> **The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.**

The two who are harvesting are 'the son of man' (Jesus) and an angel. Jesus is gathering the faithful (protection). The angel is gathering the grapes (wicked people) subject to God's wrath – (grapes of wrath)

**Note: this is not yet the final judgment – this 'winepress of God's wrath' is symbolically describing the punishments God is sending on the wicked while they are still on the earth as we will see in coming chapters.**

## **Revelation 14:14-19**

***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. <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.***

***<sup>17</sup> Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> 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." <sup>19</sup> The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.***

**So the wicked are gathered by the angel and thrown into the winepress of God's wrath. (symbolic of God's punishment) Jesus described a similar separation in a parable:**

**Matt 13:24** Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup> “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup> “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters:

First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned;

**then** gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’” ....



Wheat

Weeds/ Tares



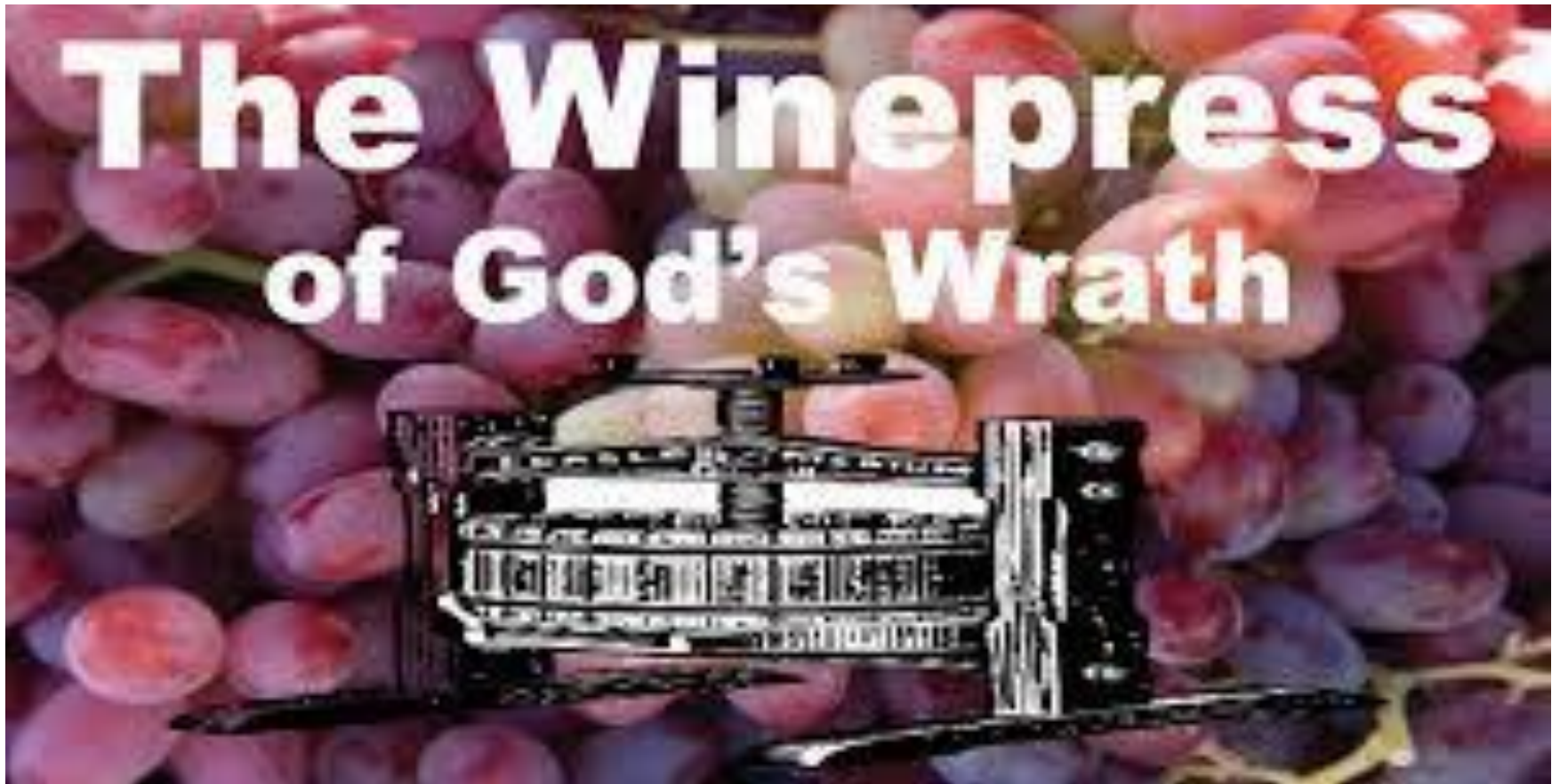
**36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”**

**37** He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

**40** “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **42** They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

**Notice even in this parable – the weeds (evil ones) are first separated out for punishment (pulled up and tied in bundles), then comes the final judgment where the evil are burned in the blazing furnace and the righteous shine in the kingdom of God.**

**So in John's Revelation vision, he sees the wicked gathered (reaped) and thrown into the great winepress of God's wrath, to be punished.**



## ***Revelation 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.***

**The wicked were trampled (punished) in the winepress.**



## **Isaiah 63:3-4, 6**

**“I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. <sup>4</sup> It was for me the day of vengeance, the year for me to redeem had come. <sup>6</sup> I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground.**



**The distance of the blood flow is described as being 1600 stadia (182 miles – approximately the length of Israel) and as high as a horse's bridle (5½ feet – average height of a man at that time)**



**Again, in Hebrew writing style, John now gives more information about he has already said:**

**The next few chapters describe what is meant by the ‘trampling in the winepress of God’s wrath.’ The things that will happen will bring punishment on the wicked inhabitants of the earth and the eventual fall of Rome (spiritual Babylon).**