

COMMENTARY

Revelation Chapter 14:

John now views heaven and sees Jesus (the Lamb), along with 144,000. These represent the faithful in Christ. These are singing a new song of praise to Christ. They have remained pure and faithful to Christ in all things (pure with women-- means a spiritual purity compared to adultery by serving other gods).

The first angel signals that the message of Jesus Christ must and will go out to all nations. This should be a mandate to Christians to insure that every available means is used to broadcast the good news!

The second angel recognizes that the one responsible for leading others in sin, has now been destroyed. The oppressor has now become the oppressed.

The third angel shows that those who were not true to the Lamb, but gave in and followed after the beast will be sent to hell and will be tormented forever. Since those who do evil will be destroyed, Christians need to remain faithful to receive the reward prepared for them. They who are faithful, can rejoice when they pass from this earth for the toil and pains of this life are gone and a new and wonderful life awaits.

John then sees a harvest. The first part of the harvest represents those who will go to heaven for having been faithful to their Lord. The second half of the harvest is a harvest of judgement where those who are found amongst that group, will be punished forever.

This is a chapter of hope. Even though the beast will be powerful and will appear to be in control for a period of time, this chapter shows that it will be possible to remain faithful and if we are we will go to heaven while those who failed in their service will be condemned.

Revelation Chapter 15:

John sees 7 angels with the last 7 plagues. When these plagues are finished, so will be the wrath of God. We find, pictured there in heaven, those who have been faithful through their lives sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. They are praising God for His work in redeeming mankind.

The 7 angels with the 7 last plagues come out from God's temple where He dwells, and are given bowls which are filled with the wrath of God. God's power and glory fill the temple and no one can come before Him until His wrath has been displayed.

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Revelation Chapter 16:

In this chapter, the seven angels pour out the seven bowls containing God's wrath.

The first bowl caused painful suffering for non-Christians. The second bowl caused the death of sea creatures. The third causes the destruction of the waters, in that they become useless. The fourth bowl causes men to be burned by the rays of the sun. The fifth causes the beasts kingdom to be plunged into darkness. The sixth bowl caused the forces to gather together against God. The seventh bowl caused the destruction of mans cities and portions of the earth, while men are slain by a plague from God.

The results of these plagues caused an angel to rejoice at God's justice in judging, stating that man is deserving of this since they had fought against God's people. Those who followed the beast, lament their suffering, curse God, and refused to repent.

Here we see the suffering that those who follow after things, other than God, will face in the day of judgement.

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 14:

1. Who was standing on Mount Zion?
2. Who, were the 144,000?
3. What did the angel flying in midair and what was he to do with it?
4. What did the angel tell the world to do?
5. What did the second angel say?
6. What did the third angel say about those that worship the beast?
7. What does this call for on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments?
8. Who is blessed and why?
9. What did the one "like a son of man" do with his sickle?
10. What happened to the grapes that were gathered?

BONUS:

1. Why do you think the Lamb and the 144,000 are mentioned following the chapter about the beast and all of its followers?
2. Summarize the message of each of the 3 angels. How does that make you feel, when you look at each message?
3. What is the meaning of the "harvest" at the end of the chapter?
4. What do you think the message of the chapter is? Why?

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 15:

1. What was the sign that John saw, as the chapter begins?
2. Why were these plagues, last?
3. Who were standing beside the sea?
4. What did these people sing?
5. What was open in heaven, and what came out of it?
6. What were the 7 golden bowls, given to the 7 angels, filled with?
7. What happened at the temple, then?
8. Until what time, could people not enter the temple?

BONUS:

1. What does this chapter and the one previous, tell you about the power of the beasts, compared to the power of God? Explain.
2. What does this chapter teach Christians, concerning their response to the beast?
3. Why do you think God, continues in this chapter to pour out plagues?

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 16:

1. What happened when the first bowl was poured out?
2. What happened when the second angel poured out his bowl?
3. What happened when the third angel poured out his bowl?
4. Why did the angel in charge of the waters say that God was just in His judgements?
5. What happened when the fourth angel poured out his bowl?
6. What happened when the fifth angel poured out his bowl?
7. What were the 3 evil spirits that looked like frogs and what did they do?
8. In verse 15, how will Jesus come and who is blessed?
9. What happened when the seventh angel poured out his bowl?

BONUS:

1. What is the meaning or message of the bowls of wrath? How does this affect you and why?
2. What does verse 15 mean to Christians today?
3. What have you learned concerning the judgement of God? How do you respond to that?