



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

As we closed out chapter thirteen, the scene seemed extremely bleak. Satan had “anointed” his two representatives. Both beasts were reeking their havoc on humanity. The antichrist and the false prophet had successfully established a world order which enabled them to deceive the bulk of humanity into worshipping the beast and taking his mark upon their foreheads enabling them to be able to buy and sell and basically to live. We now see a huge contrast in chapter fourteen. Before getting into chapter fourteen, it’s important to notice not only the specifics of the book of Revelation, but the lesson in its layout. If you notice there are certain things that occur, then there is another glance or look completely different that shows sometimes a stark contrast. Utter despair in one chapter and hope in another. Read Psalms 139:16. Could it be that our lives have been spelled out in God’s book? How many times have we despaired in one chapter of our lives because we just didn’t persevere for the next chapter. This is what New Years’, birthdays, etc. mean to most people. The possibility of a new beginning. Well, I submit that your life might feel like chapter thirteen of the book of Revelation, but hold on Chapter fourteen is on the way! We must remember that John is being shown these terrible scenes and I can’t imagine how these things have marked him in ways we couldn’t even imagine. We read about the events to come and shudder. Can you imagine having seen these images? Well, the first words in chapter fourteen are so comforting and settling. Then John looked and before him was the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion! What a comforting scene! Jesus in the midst of this entire calamity! Remember the 144,000? Well we see them again here in chapter fourteen. There is an obvious juxtaposition of the people who have received the mark of the beast vs. those who have the seal of God on their foreheads. One group is marked by Satan and the other by God. Let’s think that this is only played out in revelation there are huge current day applications. Although there may not be physical marks on us, there are spiritual ones! Read Ephesians 1:13. This scripture tells us that if we are Christians, we have been spiritually marked by the Holy Spirit. Well, what is the mark for the unbeliever, flesh! Read John 8:44. Those who are not “born again” are of their father the devil and unwittingly do his bidding just by their life apart from God. As we walk through the world, we are known in the spirit realm as children of God. We are marked by the Holy Spirit, thus we stand out!

Well, in the beginning of Chapter fourteen we see Jesus standing on Mt. Zion, but He is not alone. The 144,000 are standing with Him. They have both Jesus and the Fathers’ names written on their foreheads.



Then there is music. While there is suffering, pain and sin ravaging the earth, there is music from Mt. Zion. God gives a song to His people in the midst of suffering. The sound resembled that of harp or stringed instruments and the song that was sung before the throne, the twenty four elders and the four living creatures was a song that only the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth could sing. (vs. 3). Then there is a description of the character of these 144,000, they 1) Did not defile themselves with women, 2) they remained virgins, 3) they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, 4) they were purchased from among mankind, 5) no lie was found on their lips, and 6) they were blameless. So, it their external mark matched the internal mark on their hearts. These 144,000 were holy! They were witnesses! The last time we saw them was Rev. 7:1-8. During the tribulation they confronted unbelievers and called them to repentance as well as proclaimed the calamities that were coming. They would endure great hardships but they would be protected by God and will ultimately be a part of the thousand year earthly reign of Jesus Christ. (Read Is. 37:31-32) In line with the multitude of “sevens” that we see throughout the Book of Revelation we see Seven Proclamations in the prelude to wrath.

1. Eternal Gospel Proclaimed (14:6-7)
2. Babylon’s Sentence Declared (14:8)
3. Warning Sounded (14:9-12)
4. Blessing Announced (14:13)
5. Rewards Promised (14:13)
6. Judgment Pronounced (14:14-16)
7. Wrath Prescribed (14:7-20) (*Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary*)

John then sees an angel flying proclaiming the gospel to every nation, tribe, language and people. Read Matthew 24:14. Notice that the end cannot occur until the gospel is preached to all everyone. In other words, God will ensure that everyone has a chance to hear and God knows that it will not be received, but that it **MUST** be shared. This completely underscores what we have been saying for a while throughout this Great Tribulation; God is revealing the wickedness of man’s heart and that even with an angel sharing the Gospel, man would rather choose a lie than the truth! (Romans 1:25). The angel gives mankind the recipe for redemption (vs. 7) 1) Fear God, 2) Give Him glory, 3) Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water. Then a second angel appears in verse 8 and announces the fall of Babylon and the drunken deception she has offered the world. Then a third angel comes in verse 9 and proclaims in a loud voice (everyone will hear this!) that anyone who takes the mark of the beast will partake of God’s fury and wrath. They will be tormented with sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. This will be a torment that will not cease (vs. 11). Then he states that this causes for those who will follow Jesus to be patient and endure.(vs. 12). Then John finally hears a voice from heaven which says that those who die in the Lord are blessed and that they shall rest from their labor and their deeds will follow them. This chapter is refreshing. It’s a reminder of God’s mercy and His desire to ever give us more and more chances. It also speaks to His faithfulness to those who will follow Him regardless the level of challenge or adversity. It also let’s us know that there is always another side to suffering That where sin abounds, God’s grace all the more abounds. (Romans 5:20).

Things to Ponder:

1. How does the scene change in Rev. 14 encourage you in the “chapters” of your own life and story?
2. Why does God give the wicked a chance to repent (hint..part of His plan to communicate the gospel with everyone)?
3. Give **Biblical** examples of how you know you’re marked by God.