

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP MEMBER GUIDE

Week 9 - March 4-10 - *Revelation 14*



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

A day is coming when time will be no more.

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 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. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

The Messages of the Three Angels

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." 8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion[a] of her sexual immorality."

9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

The Harvest of the Earth

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." 16 So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." 19 So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 14.

STUDY NOTES

In chapter 13, we learned of a great battle which Satan will rage on the earth. If we are not careful, it would be too easy to grow fearful from what we read in chapter 13. But as we turn the page to chapter 14, we read of God's triumph and promised rest for his people. This chapter shows us that God glorifies Himself by delivering his followers, while punishing the beast and those who follow him.

There are a few key things to point out:

1) The 144,000 are singing a "New Song."

Some have suggested that the 144,000 is just a number that represents a select group of the redeemed. While this is not the place for extended discussion, to accept this limited position would be to miss the thrust of John's usage of the number; 144,000 represents completeness. The complete number of the saints are before the throne, singing a "New Song" of praise unto the Lamb.

2) We can endure.

As the angels fly overhead, they proclaim judgment on the earth and God's victory of the beast. While judgment commonly has a negative connotation, this is the believers' great hope. God has judged the devil, the beast, and their followers, and the pain and suffering they cause will one day be eliminated. Thus, we know the judgment of the devil is coming, as well as Christ's consuming victory is the call and reason the believer can endure.

3) There will be a harvest.

At the end of the age, we can rest assured that a harvest will take place, and the righteous will be separated from the unrighteous. Meaning, everyone will one day be judged by whether or not they have placed their trust in the righteousness of Christ. If they have decided not to, they have aligned themselves with the devil and the beast.

Chapter 14 serves as a great hope in light of what we have read in chapters 12-13. In our world today, chaos and sin rage, dare I say are even celebrated. We question if things will ever get better. Yet, at the same time, seeds of the gospel message are being spread by faithful believers around the world. And while we are called to proclaim the gospel to the world, a day is coming when time will be over, Christ will come, and the victory will be consummate. So take heart, you saints of the living God, there will be soon a "New Song" for us all to sing together in glory.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What stands out/or is confusing to you from this passage?
- How does this passage call and strengthen us to endure?
- Is the harvest discussed in the passage meant to scare or encourage us? Why?
- What is Jesus' position as the beast wages war in chapter 13? How is this brought to light in chapter 14?
- How is one identified with the Lamb and not the beast?