REVELATION 14 STUDY GUIDE (DARIN'S SERMON NOTES)

INTRODUCTION

ATTENTION GRABBER

- In the 1998 NFL draft, the Indianapolis Colts held the first pick overall. In need of a quarterback, they had two great options: Peyton Manning and Ryan Leaf.
- Though both athletes had similar skill sets, the league favorite was Ryan Leaf.
- So, the Colts decided to dive a little deeper into the character of Manning and Leaf to determine who would be the better player for their team.

TRANSITION

- Discernment isn't just telling the difference between right and wrong but between telling right and almost right.
- As Satan prowls, we must know what is of God and what is not.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 13:11 "Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."

TRANSITION

- Jesus said that things will get harder as time goes on, and the book of Revelation shows us signs of this.
- It's like birth pains that started when Jesus rose from the dead and will keep getting worse until the end.
- Revelation reminds us that everything happening in the world is heading somewhere.
- It's leading to a time when:
 - the sky will open up,
 - o Jesus will come back to take his followers,
 - and judge those against him.

QUESTION TO ASK?

- What does the opposite of the beast look like?
- Where do those without Christ go? What is that like?

What is the hope of this passage?

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the saving Lamb & slaying Lord.

DET. DIFF.

- Life is short.
 - Death is sure.
 - \circ Judgment is coming.
 - Heaven is glorious.
 - Hell is dreadful.
 - o Jesus is Savior.
- May God give us wisdom to live in these days and what we read today.

PNP

In Rev. 14, we see 3 truths about how Jesus saves and slays:

CONTEXT

- In Revelation, we're in the third cycle, focusing on Jesus fulfilling God's promises.
 - We've seen seals opened and trumpets blown.
- Now, in chapters 12 to 14, attention shifts to unseen evil attacking the church.
 - Chapter 12 shows:
 - Satan,
 - the dragon,
 - attacking Jesus and his followers.
 - Chapter 13 reveals the sea beast and earth beast,
 - symbols of government and false religion,
 - working against God's kingdom.
 - This unholy trinity opposes the holy trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - Chapter 14 concludes this cycle by showing the destinies of those who follow the world and those who follow Christ.
 - Jesus, portrayed as the lamb, saves his people while also defeating his enemies.

<u>BODY</u>

Overview

- In chapter 14, the setting abruptly shifts from a vivid scene involving a mighty creature to a heavenly one—Mount Zion, a place mentioned 155x in the OT.
 - This mountain symbolizes the eternal city where God dwells with his people.
- Connecting it to Psalm 2, we see Jesus portrayed as the Lamb on Mount Zion—standing alive and triumphant.
 - This echoes a previous mention in chapter 5.
- The Lamb, once slain, now stands as the resurrected King.
 - Alongside him are the 144,000, a symbolic number representing all believers throughout history.
 - These sealed saints, a diverse multitude, stand united with Jesus, revealing the completeness of God's chosen people across all time.

1. The Lamb Assures His Sealed Servants (14:1-5)

-Sealed People (14:1)

- 1. **Sealed by God:** Jesus' people are marked / sealed with his and his Father's names on their foreheads.
 - This signifies that they belong to God, as seen in Revelation chapter seven.
- 2. **Contrast with Followers of the Beast:** This seal distinguishes them from those who followed the beast and bore the mark of the unholy trinity (Rev. 13)
- 3. Association with Jesus and the Father:
 - These believers aligned themselves with
 - Jesus and the Father during their lives.
 - This connection began when the Son sought, bought, and sealed them with the Spirit of God (Rev. 7)
- 4. **Overcomers and Union with Jesus:** Their union with Jesus makes them overcomers,
 - leading them to Mount Zion,
 - a symbolic place free from sin, Satan, and death.
- 5. Heavenly Home: Mount Zion represents their eternal,
 - heavenly home where they are with God forever because they are sealed.

<u>Christian, you don't need to "prove yourself" to</u> <u>Jesus. Justified by faith + sealed in the Spirit = nada</u> <u>to prove!</u>

-SINGING PEOPLE (14:2-3)

1. Distinction from the 144,000:

Revelation 7:1-8 describes the sealing of the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel. Revelation 14:1-5 mentions the 144,000 again, describing them as redeemed from the earth and standing with the Lamb.

2. Interest of Angels:

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1 Peter 1:12 speaks about the curiosity of angels regarding God's salvation plan:

"It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."

***Unified & amazing** (14:2b - "sound of harpists playing on their harps")

- Heavenly Music: John hears the sound of harps being played in heaven.
- Harmony and Beauty: The harp's smooth and beautiful sound represents the harmonious praise of many voices joining together without any discord.
- 3. **Glorious Choir:** The scene paints a picture of a heavenly choir singing beautifully and harmoniously, symbolizing the perfection and beauty of worship in heaven.

*Loud (14:2a – "I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of cascading waters...and the rumbling of thunder)

- Powerful Singing: The singers in heaven raise their voices loudly, "like the roar of many waters or waves crashing in a storm."
- 2. Victorious Praise: Millions of voices join together in a triumphant cry of praise to the Lamb, creating a powerful and victorious sound.
- 3. **Eternal Song:** This scene portrays the eternal song of praise in heaven, where the Lamb who died and rose again on Zion's hill is celebrated forever.

*Begin to sing (14:3a - "and they were singing")

I. **Beginning to Sing on Earth:** Some think they'll start singing only in heaven, but the passage suggests otherwise.

- . We start singing here on earth. It's not just a future hope;
- 2. it's a present reality.

2. **Redeemed from the Earth:** The ones singing are those who have been saved from the earth.

- 1. This indicates that believers, while still living on earth,
- 2. are already part of the redeemed community and can participate in this song of praise.

*Sing a new song (14:3b - "a new song")

New Song in Heaven: The passage mentions a "new song" being sung before the throne.

- 1. This doesn't mean it's entirely new,
- 2. but it feels fresh because it's sung
 - collectively by Heaven's choir,
- 3. with all the elect gathered together.

 Magnitude of Unity: The new song is remarkable due to the immense unity and harmony of millions singing together.

> Ex – I remember a conference with 3,500 ministers where singing felt heavenly; now imagine millions praising the Lamb on the throne.

3. **Church Triumph:** This new song signifies the church's triumph,

- 1. with no more battles or sins to fight against.
- 2. It's a perpetual song, symbolizing eternal praise without end.

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-SANCTIFIED PEOPLE (14:4-5)

*Pure (14:4a - ""It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.")





*Committed (14:4b - "It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.")





*Honest (15a - "and in their mouth no lie was found")

1. Honest Character: The redeemed are described
as a honest people,
1. meaning they have no deceit or falsehood
in their mouths.
This stands in direct contrast to those
associated with the Antichrist, who are
filled with deceit.
2. Contrast with Antichrist: The Antichrist and his followers are characterized by lies and deceit,
1. particularly in denying Jesus as the Son of God.
2. Believers, however, embrace the truth of
Christ's identity and seek to live and
speak it without deception.
3. Sanctity of Truth: Just as believers uphold the
sanctity of life, they should also uphold the
sanctity of truth.
1. Embracing the truth of Christ's identity
and teachings is fundamental to the
Christian faith.
4. Desire for Truthfulness: Believers strive to be
guileless, speaking the truth about Christ and
living without deceit.
1. While they may fall short at times, they
are genuinely grieved by any departure
from the truth.
5. Commitment to Truth: Believers are
committed to living in alignment with the truth of
Christ,
1. refusing to
1. distort,
2. twist,
3. or manipulate it.
 They value truthfulness and integrity in their words and actions.
their words and actions.
Blameless (15b - "For they are blameless")
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Faultless Before God's Throne: The redeemed are described as faultless before God's throne, as mentioned in verse 5. This seems surprising, 2. but it's based on their position in Christ. Position vs. Condition: Believers are faultless in their position before God because of Christ's sacrifice. Through faith in Christ,



tsunami strikes.

Jesus is returning to judge the earth, and this gospel message warns us and tells us how to escape judgment by turning to Him in faith.

As the world gets darker, the gospel shines brighter.

The angel's announcement carries good news:

. even though judgment is inevitable, there is a way to escape through Jesus.

—FALLEN CITY (14:8)



*Disastrous way

Drinking the Wine of God's Wrath:

 The consequences of following the false trinity are described as drinking the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His indignation.

5. End in Total Disaster:

The message emphasizes that persisting on the path of worshipping the false trinity will ultimately lead to total disaster.

*Dreadful place



*Everlasting (14:11)

1. Eternal Torment in Hell:



--Have learned to appreciate God's holiness and the seriousness of sin (Isaiah 6).

God (2 Timothy 3:16)

--Hold that if hell seems unfair, it's because we might not fully grasp God's holiness or the seriousness of sin (Revelation 20:11-15; Isaiah 6).

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HELL

--People in Hell don't repent; they continue to rebel against God (Revelation 16:9, 11, 21).

--Hell isn't Satan's kingdom; it's where Satan and his demons suffer punishment (Matthew 25:41).

--Everyone in Hell deserves to be there according to God's perfect justice (Romans 6:23).

--Hell isn't a fun place to hang out with friends; it's a lonely and painful existence (Matthew 8:12).

--Hell isn't a temporary stop; there's no universal salvation (Matthew 25:46).

--Nobody who truly seeks God's forgiveness is rejected by him (John 6:35, 37b, 40).

--In Hell, people feel God's justice and wrath, not His love and grace (Revelation 14:10).

--Satan and his demons don't torment people in Hell; they suffer punishment themselves (2 Peter 2:4).

HOW SHOULD WE FEEL ABOUT HELL?

--**Sad** for those who may end up there (Luke 16:19-31), and

--**Grateful** for God's mercy in saving us from such a fate through Jesus Christ's sacrifice (John 3:16-17).

APPLICATION #1 - (14:12)



3. Examples of Faithful Endurance:

Historical examples, like that of Archibald Allison, illustrate the unwavering faith and hope of believers facing martyrdom.

Despite facing death, believers remained steadfast in their commitment to Christ, trusting in His promises and enduring through trials.

4. Marks of True Christianity:

The passage underscores the importance of obedience to God's commandments and unwavering faith in Jesus.

True believers are characterized by their patient endurance, obedience to God, and steadfast faith in Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION #2 - (14:13)

Works Following Believers:



APPLICATION #3 - (14:13)

Blessed Deaths in the Lord:

- The Holy Spirit affirms that those who die in the Lord, with their lives centered on Jesus, will gain in death.
 - They leave behind the struggles and sorrows of earthly life, including
 - afflictions, t
 - emptations,
 - and the trials of the flesh.
- Death brings them into communion with God,



This extensive imagery represents the comprehensive judgment of the region from Tyre to Egypt.

5. Outside the City:

- The location of the winepress outside the city symbolizes separation from eternal life, joy, and peace.
- Revelation 22:14 reinforces this idea, stating that those who did not repent of their sins are outside the city.

6. Two Destinies Laid Before Us:

 The third cycle in Revelation (chapters 12-14) concludes by presenting two destinies: eternal life for those in Christ and eternal judgment for those apart from Christ.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR FAITH IN JESUS: Emphasizes the call for the endurance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus (Revelation 14:12). Urges believers to prioritize their faith article distance in a sume face, and here the same face, and here t

amid distractions, news, fear, and anxieties.



Encourages believers to remember that even unseen or private acts for the Lord are seen and remembered by Him.

NOTHING IS MORE CERTAIN THAN JESUS' RETURN:

Highlights the certainty of Jesus' return, contrasting the uncertainties in the world, including the current pandemic, elections, economy, and education.

Stresses the significance of the book of Revelation in reminding believers that amidst uncertainties, the certainty of Christ's return remains.

Encourages trust and perseverance, knowing that Jesus will return, though the exact timing remains unknown.

7. What will those with the mark of the beast receive in the final judgement?

8. The sickle in the hand of the "one like the Son of Man" is a representation of what?

9. How did Jesus view the harvest in John 4:35-38 and Matthew 9:35-38 in comparison to this harvest in Revelation 14?

10. In the past, where was the judgement for sin offerings given? (See Lev 4:12, 21; 9:11; 16:27 & Hebrews 13:11-12).

11. Where is the judgement of those thrown in the winepress to occur? What is the difference between earlier judgements/offerings outside of the city and this one in Revelation 14?

12 Where else in scripture has a winepress been mentioned? What does it typically symbolize? (See Isaiah 63:2-6; Joel 3:13; Rev 19:13-16)

Application:

STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1. List the characteristics given in the description of the 144,000. What questions come to mind from vs 1-5?
- 2. In what previous chapter in Revelation was this particular number (144,000) mentioned and who was represented in this number?
- 3. Define "redeemed" and "blameless." Why are those redeemed by the Lamb (Jesus) considered blameless?
- In 14:6-12 there are proclamations by 3 angels. Record below what can be learned from each angel:
 - 1. Angel 1:
 - 2. Angel 2:
 - 3. Angel 3:

5. What are three characteristics displayed by the saints in verse 12?

6. Who are considered the "blessed" in vs. 13 and what are they promised?

- 1. Does God see me as blameless? Why or why not?
- 2. What does it look like in my own life to follow the Lamb wherever he goes?
- 3. How has understanding God's redemption of me impact the way I live my life?
- 4. Where have I had my endurance, obedience and faithfulness to Christ tested in the past or even now in my present circumstances? How does the future promise of rest with the Lord help me to persevere now?
- 5. In what ways do I see people in the world ripened with sin? Is what I am seeing in the world causing me to more often engage the lost for Jesus OR to retreat to the insulation of my Christian community?
- 6. Who is God calling me to pursue in prayer and relationship for Jesus and what will my next step be? Share this with another brother/sister in Christ and ask them to hold you accountable.