

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #30 | Revelation 14:14-20 | Flash Forward, Part 3

Review: Earlier in the Flash Forward

- The 14th chapter of Revelation is a “flash forward,” starting with the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom then backing up to cover the final events of the tribulation in summary fashion.
- A review:
 - Revelation 14:1 | The Lamb on Earth
 - Revelation 14:1-5 | The 144,000 Seen Again
 - Revelation 14:6-7 | The Proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel
 - Revelation 14:8-11 | Two More “Warning” Angels
 - Revelation 14:12-13 | The Salvation of Future Days

Revelation 14:14-20 | The Harvest of the Earth

- We had previously (v. 1) seen the Messiah as the Lamb on the earth (v. 1). Now we see Messiah as the **Son of Man** on a **white cloud**.
 - Since Jesus said that **you shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven** (Mt. 24:30), this scene must go immediately prior to the scene of verse 1.
 - In the Matthew passage, the next verse (31) speaks of His angels who would **gather together his elect**. Thus we *expect* to see something similar in this Revelation passage.
 - What do we find in Revelation? A **sickle** (v. 14) and the mention of three angels (vv. 15, 17, 19) speaking of a time of reaping.
- Recall that the title **Son of Man** is the *theocratic* title of the Messiah, the one which pictures Him as the One who will reign on earth with dominion over all (Ps. 8:6).
 - In Matthew 13:37, the Son of Man is the *sower*.
 - In Revelation 14:14-19 He is the *harvester*.
 - In His first visit to earth, He **had no place to lay down his head** (Mt. 8:20).
 - On His return, the earth (and all its fullness) will be His.
 - This is undoubtedly the reason that we see Him now with a **golden crown**.
 - This is the **στέφανος** [stephanos] not diadem. That is, the victor's crown, not the crown of the reigning monarch.
 - He will wear the diadem in Revelation 19 (pictured by Aries in the witness of the stars).

- Next, the fourth in a series of seven angels comes **out of the Temple** (v. 15), presumably in heaven (based on v. 17). This angel calls for **the harvest of the earth**. Compare Joel 3:13-14 for a parallel passage.
- Verses 18-19 appear to be the foreshadow of the gathering of the nations for the Battle of Armageddon, thus **the vine of the earth** are the nations of the earth, and their fruit (as opposed to the vine of God). Compare Revelation 16:14-16. If these events are the same, then we see the angels of God using **the spirit of devils** (16:14) as pawns, working for their own disastrous end.
- The good news: **the winepress was trodden without the city** (not within the city).
 - The city of Jerusalem has a future purpose as the city of God, and will be eternally spared, even though the Battle of Armageddon.
- The meaning of the measurement of blood is a mystery, but certainly conveys the carnage of the coming battle.

Does this fit with the church?

- All of what is seen in Revelation 14 is a picture of the wrath of God. Could the wrath of God ever be directed toward *the church, the Body of Christ*? Note that 1 Thessalonians 1:10 says that we are **delivered from the wrath to come**.
- Those who believe in a post-tribulation rapture necessarily believe that:
 - The antichrist will make war with the church.
 - The church will experience the wrath of God poured out upon the earth.
 - Select people from the church will be protected through this wrath. However, few (any?) post-tribulation adherents believe there is any *supernatural* protection (as taught in Revelation for the 144,000).
 - Therefore, they necessarily believe that “only the truly saved” will persevere through this coming time of testing.
 - Therefore they do not have a God of grace who bestows eternal life, but rather a vengeful and jealous God who offers an *opportunity* that few can actually live up to.
- In the end, it does not make sense that God would direct wrath upon the *Body of Christ*, the church. However, the pieces fit perfectly when you see that the tribulation is *the day of Jacob's trouble* designed to bring *Israel* back to their God.