8

REVELATION 14

JESUS MARKS HIS OWN

REVELATION REVELATION

IMAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT IN REVELATION 14

THE LAMB ON ZION

Psalm 2:6 declares that despite the rebellion of the nations, God has installed His King on Zion. God's chosen King will reign, and the Lamb, the One who was sacrificed for us, is the King. What the psalmist proclaimed, John now sees in the vision God gave him: the true King has taken His throne.

VIRGINS OR DEFILED

Throughout the Old Testament, unfaithfulness to God is often described as spiritual adultery. For example, God told His people who worshiped idols that they were like prostitutes (Jeremiah 2:20). In Revelation 14:4, God's own are compared to virgins and those who follow the world as defiling themselves with sexual immorality. The imagery is about more than sex but about devotion to God or devotion to the things of this world.

BABYLON

In the Old Testament, Babylon was both a real empire and a symbol of human pride, power, and rebellion against God. The prophets announced its fall as a sign that no kingdom opposed to God can endure. In Revelation, Babylon represents every system that draws people away from God and into false worship. What looks powerful now is already fallen in God's eyes and one day all will see it fall (Isaiah 21:9, Jeremiah 51).

THE SON OF MAN

In Daniel's vision, "'one like a son of man'" comes with the clouds and is given authority, glory, and an everlasting Kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14). In Revelation 14:14, Jesus appears as the Son of Man holding a sickle, ready to harvest the Earth. The One who was given dominion now exercises it.

THE WINEPRESS OF WRATH

Isaiah 63:1-6 describes the Lord as a warrior returning from judgment with His garments stained from treading the winepress alone. The image of grapes crushed underfoot are a picture of God's enemies overwhelmed by His justice. Revelation 14:19-20 draw directly from this passage to portray the final judgment. The God who saves is also the God who judges, and His justice will be full.

14 **THE LAMB AND THE 144,000**

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him were
144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. [2] I heard a sound
from heaven like the sound of cascading waters and like the rumbling of loud thunder. The
sound I heard was like harpists playing on their harps. [3] They sang a new song before the
throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, but no one could learn the song
except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. [4] These are the ones who have not
defiled themselves with women, since they remained virgins. These are the ones who follow
the Lamb wherever he goes. They were redeemed from humanity as the firstfruits for God and
the Lamb. [5] No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THREE ANGELS

[6] Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, with the eternal gospel to announce to the
inhabitants of the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. [7] He spoke with a loud
voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship the
one who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

[8] And another, a second angel, followed, saying, "It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen.
She made all the nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath."

[9] And another, a third angel, followed them and spoke 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 will also drink
the wine of God's wrath, which is poured full strength into the cup of his anger. He will be
tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb,
[11] and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night
for those who worship the beast and its image, or anyone who receives the mark of its name.
[12] This calls for endurance from the saints, who keep God's commands and their faith in Jesus."

[13] Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "so they will rest from their labors, since their works follow them."

REAPING THE EARTH'S HARVEST

[14] Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and one like the Son of Man was seated on the
cloud, with a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. [15] Another angel came
out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the one who was seated on the cloud, "Use your
sickle and reap, for the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe." [16] So the
one seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

[17] Then another angel who also had a sharp sickle came out of the temple in heaven. [18] Yet
another angel, who had authority over fire, came from the altar, and he called with a loud voice

to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes
from the vineyard of the earth, because its grapes have ripened." [19] So the angel swung his
sickle at the earth and gathered the grapes from the vineyard of the earth, and he threw them
into the great winepress of God's wrath. [20] Then the press was trampled outside the city, and
blood flowed out of the press up to the horses' bridles for about 180 miles.

Message Notes

WEEK EIGHT

• Marked by the Lamb

• Marked by the Beast

Marked by the Lamb	Marked by the Beast
Sing a new song (14:3)	Suffer God's wrath (14:10)
Redeemed from the Earth (14:4)	Judged with the Earth (14:8)
Follow the Lamb (14:4)	Follow the beast (14:9)
Pure and blameless (14:4-5)	Corrupted and deceived (14:8)
Rest forever (14:13)	No rest ever (14:11)

• The End of Each

Life Group Discussion Guide

WEEK EIGHT

RHYTHM REMINDER

Daily Devotion

LEAN IN

Think of a time you felt a strong sense of belonging—like you were truly known and accepted by a group of people. What made that experience so meaningful?

LOOK DOWN

Read Revelation 14 (pg. 110). Revelation 14 opens with 144,000 people standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, marked with His name and the Father's name on their foreheads, singing a song that only they know (v. 1-3). What does this scene communicate about what it means to belong to Jesus? What stands out to you about how they are described?

LOOK OUT

Revelation 14 makes clear that every person is ultimately marked by one of two things—the Lamb or the beast. In a culture that resists the idea of absolute allegiances, how do you communicate the reality that there is no neutral ground when it comes to Jesus?

LOOK IN

The 144,000 are marked with the name of the Lamb and the Father—a sign of ownership and belonging. In what ways does your daily life reflect the fact that you are marked by and belong to Jesus? Where is that mark most visible to the people around you?

NOTES