



Title: The Time is Now

Text: Revelation 14

Target: May we understand the heart of God to tell us the truth about our eternal destination is not unloving, but extremely loving because He loves us enough to tell us the truth!

I. The Example of the Evangelists: Revelation 14:1-5

- A. **Secured by a Seal:** "had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads" (Vs.1)
- B. **Song only we can Sing:** "and they were singing a **new song** before the throne... no one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth." (Vs. 3)
- C. **Separated from Sin:** "It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins." (Vs. 4a)
- D. **Steadily Submit:** "It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes." (Vs. 4b)
- E. **Set Apart is our Statement:** "these have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb." (Vs. 4c)
- F. **Sincere in our Speech:** "in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless." (Vs. 5)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: In this passage we see a reference to "firstfruits" (verse 4). Going back to Leviticus 23, the Israelites are told to take the firstfruits of their harvest and offer as a sacrifice unto The Lord. In 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul tells us about Christ as the firstfruits. Now, we see the 144,000 as the firstfruits (after Christ). Why is this significant? What is the connection between a sacrificial firstfruits offering and the redemption offered by Jesus?

II. The Announcement from the Angels: Revelation 14:6-13

- A. **Declaration of Salvation (Angel #1):** "eternal **gospel** to proclaim to those who dwell on earth" (Vs. 6)
 - 1. The "What" of the Gospel?
 - 2. The "Why" of the Gospel?
 - 3. The "Who" of the Gospel?
- B. **Declaration of Confirmation (Angel #2):** "fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality" (Vs. 8) *Comparison of Babel & Babylon
- C. **Declaration of Separation (Angel #3):**
 - 1. **Warning of Judgement:** "saying with a **loud voice**..." (Vs. 9)
*Romans 1:20
 - 2. **Objects of Wrath:** "he also will drink the **wine of God's wrath**, poured full strength into the cup of his anger" (Vs. 10) *Jesus drank the cup of wine for us!
 - 3. **Eternal Torment:** "their torment (ceaseless pain) goes up forever and ever, and they have **NO REST**, day or night..." (Vs. 11)



- D. **Declaration of Inspiration:** *“Blessed (Satisfied) indeed, says the Spirit, that they may REST from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”* (Vs. 13)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: If we have confessed and believed in Jesus, we know that He drank the cup of God’s wrath for us. However, for those that have not done so the full wrath of God will be poured out upon them. How can you use this knowledge as an encouragement to step out and share the Good News of Jesus to those in your sphere of influence that need Jesus?

III. The Hour of the Harvest: Revelation 14:14-20 (flash forward to the end of the tribulation)

- A. **The Reaper of the Harvest:** *“seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand”* (Vs. 14)
*cutting down His enemies.
- B. **The Reaping of the Harvest:** *“for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe”* (Vs. 15) *Matthew 3/John the Baptist
1. **Grain Harvest (7 Bowl Judgements on earth):** *“he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped”* (Vs. 16) *Coming in Revelation 16
 2. **Grape Harvest (Armageddon):** *“gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.”* (Vs. 19)
- C. **The Reckoning in the Harvest:** *“and the winepress was trodden outside the city (Megiddo), and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle (4ft), for 1,600 stadia (200 miles).”* (Vs. 20)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Israel rejected Jesus. We know that the 144,000 represent Jewish people that believe in Jesus as the Messiah during the Tribulation. The end of this chapter spells out the reckoning for apostate Israel (specifically in the illustration of the harvest and sickle). However, we know that Jesus came not only for the Jew but also the Gentile (you and me). How can we live in such a way that we prepare those around us for the harvest to come? See also: John 5:24-30

Take Away: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few!