

Revelation Class 6

Snapshot 2: The second 144,000

Chapter 14 continues the interlude between the seven trumpets and the seven bowls. This chapter consists of a series of disconnected short visions. These are visions of assurance that God is in complete control, that the wicked, godless civilization of the beast will fall under divine judgment and the saints will be victorious.

Vision of the Lamb on Mount Zion:

Rev. 14: 1-5

The Lamb is standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 individuals. What you see described here takes place after the Tribulation is over. What is Mount Zion? Zion is seen as the political and spiritual city of the nation of Israel. David set up the Tabernacle of David on Mount Zion. It was a place of worship and the presence of God. The 144,000 is the same company that was sealed in 7: 9-17. They represent the total body of the redeemed. They are not a special company of believers. They are described here in their final salvation in the New Jerusalem.

Verse 3: The new song is a song of redemption and can only be learned by those who have been redeemed from the earth. Rev. 5:9 gives us the content of the new song. It is sung by the angels but is designed primarily for redeemed men.

Verse 4: Chaste – The 144,000 are virgins and undefiled in the sense that they have refused to defile themselves by participating in the fornication of worshipping the beast but have kept themselves pure unto God.

Snapshot 3 – The Three Angels:

The second snapshot took place after the Tribulation was over. This snapshot puts us back into the Tribulation time. Therefore we know that the snapshots are not sequential or chronological.

Rev 14:6-13

Summarizing the third snapshot, we see three angels bringing important messages:

[1] Babylon is going to fall, probably at the battle of Armageddon or near that time.

[2] The evangelism of the people still on the earth will probably continue throughout this period.

[3] The result of taking the mark of the beast and worshiping him is going to be torment in front of Christ and the angels. That torment is going to go on forever and ever, even after the millennium. It is obvious, then, that this snapshot covers a long period of time.

Snapshot four: The two harvests

Rev 14: 14 -20

There are two harvests outlined here. In verses 14-16 God harvests those things, which are pleasing in His sight. The second harvest is described in verses 17-20, wherein those things, which displease God, are harvested for wrath.

These harvests take place at the end of the tribulation period and are further described in Rev. 19-20.

Matthew 24: 29-31 speaks about this first harvest.

The second harvest in Revelation 14 is found in verses 17-20. Two more angels appear, one with a sharp sickle and one who commands the one with the sickle to harvest the grapes from the vine of the earth and to throw them into the winepress of God's wrath. This harvest is probably referring to the battle of Armageddon.

The Gospels also talk about the two harvests in Matt. 13: 24-30; 37-42.

Matt. 24 and Luke 17 tell us that two men will be working in a field and two women will be grinding at the same place; in both instances, one will be taken and the other will be left behind.

Matt 13: 45 - 50

Repeatedly, we are seeing the wicked being removed with the angels doing the separating and harvesting. The Christians will be taken into the barn of the Lord, and those who are against Christ will be cast into the lake of fire.

Joel 3: 12-17 ties it all together.

After the harvests, the millennium will start, and the believers will flow in and out of Jerusalem and a loving, peaceful, harmonious relationship with Christ as King.

Chapter 15 Preparation for the Bowls

Snapshot 5: The seven angels and the seven bowls of wrath:

Rev 15: 1-8

The sounding of the seventh trumpet announced the period of the end but when the trumpet sounded which was to be the third woe [11:14] no woe or plague occurred. That is because the seven bowls of wrath make up the third woe.

Verse 2: They are victorious because they refused to bow down to the beast and worship him. They are standing before the throne of God in His very presence and are singing a song of Moses and of the Lamb. This is a song praising God for their deliverance.

Verse 8:

Exodus 19: 18-21

Heb. 12: 18 21

Mount Sinai is covered in fire and smoke because God's wrath was being manifested against sin. The Israelites were terrified on witnessing God's wrath. The temple in Revelation is filled with smoke signifying God's wrath as he pours out the seven bowls of wrath on the earth.

Revelation 16 describes what occurs when the angels pour out the seven bowls of wrath.

Revelation 16: 1 - 21

First bowl:

Ex 9: 8-12

Second Bowl:

All of the events of these bowls are probably happening within a short period of time, and some of them are happening simultaneously.

Third Bowl:

Fourth Bowl:

Fifth Bowl:

This plague is poured out directly upon the center of the beast's power.

Sixth Bowl:

The biblical Trinity consists of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In verse 13 receive an "unholy" trinity the dragon, which is Satan; the beast, which is the dictator beast; and the false prophet, which is the prophet beast. Satan [the Dragon] is a false counterpart to our heavenly Father; the dictator beast is a false Christ; and the false prophet is a false Holy Spirit. Out of this unholy trinity come three unclean spirits. While they are referred to as being like frogs, I doubt that they will actually look like frogs.

In the Hebrew language, Har-Magedon means "Mount of Megiddo." The Jezreel Valley lies at its base. Many significant battles have taken place in this valley. Saul died in this valley. Deborah and Barak triumphed in this valley. The final encounter between Christ and His armies in the armies of the Antichrist will fight here. In Revelation 9 the sixth trumpet is recorded. I believe that this is the same event as what we have in the sixth bowl. The sixth bowl and the sixth trumpet are probably happening at the same time.

So an army of 200 million horsemen instigated by these four satanic angels at the river Euphrates, enters the scene. No plagues have occurred on the earth during this sixth bowl. However, it is significant the Euphrates River dries up, preparing the way where the armies of the east can reach the final battle.

Seventh Bowl:

Babylon is the seat of the beast's power. What follows is the complete collapse of the godless human civilization.

There are similarities between the seventh trumpet and the seventh bowl and probably they both occur at the same time. The fifth snapshot probably takes place at the very end of the seven trumpets.

Verse 20: This doesn't take place until after the return of Christ and is described as a renovation of the entire created order. A new heavens and a new earth.