

INTRODUCTION to REVELATION chapter 14

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1 THE THEME

AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR BELIEVERS AND A FINAL WARNING FOR UNBELIEVERS

In Revelation chapter 14 Christ changes the perspective from looking at things from an earthly point of view (Revelation chapter 13) to looking at things from the heavenly point of view (cf. Psalm 73:16-17). Christians need to hear about the real world of God behind this present world of man and change their perspective.

The truth, which the world has suppressed and exchanged for so many centuries (cf. Romans 1:18,25), begins to knock at the door of everyone's heart. Christ, who has been nailed to the cross with the words "Away with him" and has been kicked aside for centuries, is suddenly standing at the gate of every human heart (Revelation 3:20). Now no one can turn him away anymore. His knocking becomes louder and his voice calls more emphatically. Now the foundations of every human structure begin to crumble.

2 THE STRUCTURE

As Revelation chapter 7 is intended to be *an encouragement and joyful assurance* for Christians that they are sealed (owned and protected) by God throughout the trials (oppressions and persecutions) and temptations (seductions) in life (chapters 6), so Revelation chapter 14 is intended to be *an encouragement and joyful assurance* for Christians that not one of them will go lost due to the trials (oppressions and persecutions) and temptations (seductions) throughout the whole New Testament period (chapters 12 and 13).

Thus the second section (chapters 4 to 7) and the fourth section (chapters 12 to 14) of the book of Revelation are parallel.

3 THE CONTENTS

Revelation chapter 14 consists of *three parts*: each introduced by the words "I saw" in verse 1, 6 and 14.

[a. Revelation 14:1-5](#)

This part takes Christians beyond time and gives them a glance of *the eternal state in heaven*. The present history of the world has come to an end and the eternal salvation is fully enjoyed by all believers. Not a single person of the complete number of believers in the Militant Church on earth will be missing in the Triumphant Church in heaven after Christ's second coming!

[b. Revelation 14:6-13](#)

This part takes Christians back into time shortly *before this present history of the world comes to an end*. Three angels bring a final warning to the people of this world about the coming final judgement. Their intention is to call the people of this world to repentance and conversion. Their announcements concern events that will happen in reversed order so as to impress them to repent before it is too late. They must choose between repentance or hardening themselves, between sharing eternity with Christ or sharing the terrible fall and judgement of the godless and wicked world.

c. Revelation 14:14-20

It takes Christians to *the end of time and describes the final judgement* by means of two symbolic actions.

- The harvest of wheat by the Son of Man symbolises the final judgement of all the righteous by Christ.
- The harvest of grapes by Christ's angels symbolises the final judgement of all the unrighteous. The final judgement will take place in conjunction with the final battle on earth (cf. 19:15,19).