

men. But in chp. 14 the group is specifically identified as males who are undefiled with women. There is nothing but difficulties in the path of anyone who claims that he can identify with certainty this group - other than the fact that they are the redeemed. Roman Catholic theologians cannot make out their case for celibacy from this passage either, contrary to their claims. Study the biblical teaching about marriage and divorce, and note the biblical use of the symbol of adultery for impurity.

## SECTION 41

### Text 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he saith with a great voice, Fear God, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters.

### Initial Questions 14:6-7

1. What was the message of the flying angel - vs. 6?
2. What significance does this vs. have for the missionary enterprise?
3. What does the word fear mean in vs. 7?
4. What characteristics of God are discussed in vs. 7?

### Three Angelic Proclamations, and a Voice from Heaven Chapter 14:6-13

#### Verse 6

The preview of hope is now made available to mankind. John saw "another angel flying in mid-heaven (see 8:13) having an eternal Gospel to preach over (*epi* - over, the extent of) the ones sitting on the earth." Every one could now have an opportunity to hear the glorious gospel of Christ. There will be no national, color, social, or intellectual lines drawn as this angel proclaims the good tidings of forgiveness through Christ.

## Verse 7

Now the call is issued on behalf of the sovereign ruler of the universe for man to "fear (*phobethēte* - 1st. aor. middle voice - imp. plural - the middle voice means that they are to make themselves fear God) God and give him glory; because the hour of his judgment came" (*elthen* - 2nd aor. ind. God's judgment "came" in a sudden, single act!) The great voice requires three things of all who would escape God's judgment - (1) Fear God; (2) Give him glory; (3) Worship the creator of the universe.

## SECTION 42

## Text 14:8

And another, a second angel, followed, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, that hath made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

## Initial Questions 14:8

1. What was the message of this second angel - vs. 8?
2. Compare his message with that of the flying angel in vs. 6.

## Verse 8

Immediately following the first angel, a second angel "followed saying fallen - (*epesen* - 2nd aor. ind. literally fell because of the immediate and singular act of collapse.) fallen is Babylon the great." The great rebellious, powerful, anti-Roman Christian empire is finished as sovereign over the minds and bodies of men. Right in the midst of her apparent victory over Christ's Church, John is led to announce that from the vantage point of the throne room of heaven - Babylon's fall was final, sudden and complete in God's plan of the victory of righteousness over unrighteousness. Mighty Rome might dominate the earth for a little while, but God's judgment will come; and she will not be able to stand against the wrath of the Lamb. Oh! What a message of hope to those 1st century Christians who were withstanding daily persecution for the glory of their Lord. We must never forget that there are people in our own day who pay dearly for their public acknowledgement of Jesus Christ.

## SECTION 43

## Text 14:9-12

9 And another angel, a third followed them, saying with a great voice, If any man worshippeth the beast and his image, and receiveth a mark on his forehead, or upon his hand, 10 he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 and the smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, they that worship the beast and his image, and whoso receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

## Initial Questions 14:9-12

1. What was the message of the third angel - vs. 9?
2. Does vs. 10 show that there are some who will not be redeemed, and that the Bible does teach that there is a hell?
3. Does the punishment mentioned in vs. 10 imply merely a purgatorial cleansing or probation?
4. How long are those individuals outside of Christ punished according to vs. 11?
5. Does vs. 11 assert that those being punished are conscious of their punishment?
6. What does John mean in vs. 12 - "Here is the patience of the saints."

## Verse 9

The third messenger of the Lord comes on the stage of the universe to warn the one who "worships the beast and the image of it." The angel of God warns the idolators - just as the second beast threatened all who would not worship the image of the beast as related in chp. 13:15.

Those who had the identifying marks as followers of the dragon and his henchmen would receive the condemnation of the creator of heaven and earth.

## Verse 10

The person who worships the beast "shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God having been mixed undiluted (*akratou* - no water will be mixed with the wine of God's wrath. It will be full

strength!); and will be tormented by fire and sulphur before holy angels, and before the Lamb." John is declaring that as a matter of fact, the wrath of God will actually bring torment upon all who do not know Jesus Christ as savior.

#### Verse 11

The tormented idolators are described in this verse. Their torment is "unto ages of ages"; and they have not rest day and night". . . . John claims that their punishment is permanent; and that the tormented ones are conscious of their suffering. (See *Special Study* after this chp. on - *Yes, There Is a Hell!*)

#### Verse 12

John is asserting the same basic challenge here as in 13:10 (see that verse).

### SECTION 44

#### Text 14:13

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.

#### Initial Questions 14:13

1. Why are the dead in Christ called blessed in vs. 13?
2. Does this vs. show a personality trait of the Holy Spirit? If so, what?
3. Are Christian works important (or necessary) for our salvation? (Study Romans, Galatians and James on Faith and works.)

#### Verse 13

John's serious contemplation is broken by the command write (*grapson* - 1st. aor. imp. active). He was commanded by the heavenly voice to write - "Blessed are the dead the ones dying in the Lord from now (*ap arti* is a difficult phrase - but it can hardly mean that the ones who die in the Lord from now on which would imply that those who died before were not blessed. This cannot be the meaning.) The Spirit says - "in order that (*hina* - purpose clause) they shall rest from (*ek* - out of or away from) their weariness (or sorrow)." The Greek word

*koptō* means to strike or beat the beast in grief. When it is used in the sense of labor it always entails drudgery, and weariness of the soul (or sorrow). The Spirit promised rest from weariness "for their works (*erga* - physical labor) follows with them." God promises to bless those who die in Christ with victory; give meaning to their suffering, and assures them that their work for Christ's kingdom is not in vain.

## SECTION 45

## Text 14:14-20

14 And I saw, and behold, a white cloud; and on the cloud I saw one sitting like unto a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out from the temple, crying with a great voice to him that sat on the cloud, Send forth thy sickle, and reap: for the hour to reap is come; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud cast his sickle upon the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out from the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, he that hath power over fire; and he called with a great voice to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Send forth thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel cast his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vintage of the earth, and cast it into the winepress, the great winepress, of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and there came out blood from the winepress, even unto the bridles of the horses, as far as a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

## Initial Questions 14:14-20

1. What is the imagery of vs. 14?
2. Will any escape the heavenly harvest according to vs. 15?
3. Who is the one "that sat on the cloud" - vs. 16?
4. What national song finds some of its imagery in vs. 17-20?
5. How far is a "thousand six hundred furlongs" - vs. 20?

Vision of the Harvest and Vintage of the Earth  
Chapter 14:14-20

## Verse 14

The remaining section of this chapter is concerned primarily with the judgment of God. John saw "a white cloud" and