REVELATION: PART 43 · STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 14: The Three Angels, the Harvest and the Wine Press

Revelation 14:6–20 | Sunday, May 14 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

The message opens where the last one ended — with the prophets who searched intently to find out what their own predictions of a suffering Messiah meant, and with angels who long to look into these things. Hal takes the two Greek words: a verb of great emotional passion, and the verb used of Mary stooping down to look intently into the empty tomb. Then he goes back to the chapter, from verse 6. The first angel flies in midair with the eternal Gospel and calls the world to fear God and give Him glory. The second announces that Babylon the great has fallen. The third announces the alternative for anyone who worships the beast and his image and receives his mark. Then two reapers with two sickles: Jesus on a white cloud harvesting the believers, and an angel out of the temple in heaven gathering the grapes into the great wine press of God's wrath. Hal ends on the war that press stands for.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 20:11 — Mary stoops down and looks intently into the tomb — the word behind the angels' longing

Ephesians — The Church teaching the angels the grace of God

Daniel — The holy watchers — the angels who watch us all the time

Revelation 17 — Babylon the great: mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth

Revelation 20 — The lake of fire, and the promise that a believer is not touched by the second death

Verse 13 — "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on"

Verse 14 — One like the Son of Man on a white cloud, a crown of gold, and a sharp sickle

Verse 17 — Another angel out of the temple in heaven — the second reaper

Daniel 11:40–45 — The battle plan of the war that starts at the middle of the Tribulation

KEY TERMS

Epithymousin — the Greek behind the angels' longing — a word of great emotional passion

Parakupto — to stoop down and look intently at something with the idea of trying to understand it; the word used of Mary at the tomb

The two portraits of the Messiah — a conquering king, and one who suffers — sometimes separated only by a comma in the same sentence, which is why the rabbis concluded there were two messiahs, one the son of Joseph

Babylon the great — the whore of Babylon, the mother of harlots; a name, Hal says, inseparably connected with false religion

Dying grace — what Hal believes the Holy Spirit gives a believer who is faced with renouncing Christ or being put to death

The two reapers — Jesus with a sickle on the white cloud, and an angel with a sickle from the temple in heaven

Harmagedon — the Hebrew behind Armageddon, from the valley of megiddo; and in Greek the word means a war of several battles, not one battle

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What were the Old Testament prophets doing, in the passage Hal opens with?

2. What were the two portraits of the Messiah, and how did the rabbis reconcile them?

3. What do the two Greek words tell us about the angels?

4. How, Hal says, is the Church teaching the angels the grace of God?

5. What does the first angel proclaim, and to whom?

6. What does the second angel announce?

7. What is the third angel’s message, and how does it stand against the first?

8. What does Hal expect the price of faith to be in that period?

9. What example does he give of that from history?

10. What is the little syllogism Hal says was given to him?

11. Who are the two reapers, and what is the difference between the two harvests?

12. What difference does Hal draw between the two angels who come out of the temple?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. The prophets wrote things they could not understand, and searched their own words for the meaning. What do you do with the parts of Scripture you cannot yet make sense of?

2. Angels stoop down and stare at what God is doing with ordinary believers. What does it do to you to be watched like that?

3. Hal says the angels learn the grace of God from watching how much He puts up with in us. Where has God's patience with you been the clearest evidence of grace?

4. The first angel announces good news and the third announces the alternative. When is it right to speak about judgment, and how do you do it without frightening someone into a decision?

5. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." What would have to be true of you for that to sound like a blessing?

6. Hal believes dying grace is given when it is needed, not before. What difference does that make to the courage you are asking God for today?

MEMORY VERSE

> *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."*
>
> — Revelation 14:13, as Hal reads it in this message