

Revelation 14:1-12. *Gross Millenarian*. I looked again; there He was the Lamb Himself, standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 believers. But, *these* folk had Father God's name on their forehead.

Q Just what is Father God's *name*?

Q And, who are these "144,000?"

A sound like the roar of rushing waters, loud as thunder, yet similar to harpists—it was a song, a new song sung before the throne. Yet, no one could hear it except the 144,000 who had been redeemed. And who were those? People who did not defile themselves with women; they kept themselves virginal. They were blameless, no lies on their tongues. Following the Lamb wherever He goes, they had been purchased as first fruits to God [θεος] and the Lamb.

Q How would you explain to an unbeliever, or a seeker, people's inability to hear the "song of the redeemed?"

Q Is this why later believers became monks and nuns?

Q Just what are "first fruits?"

An angel proclaimed the eternal gospel to everyone—"Revere Θεος, give Him glory because justice has arrived. Worship the creator of heavens, earth, sea and fresh water." Then a second angel proclaimed: "Babylon the Great has fallen, which made all the nations drink from **her**

maddening [θυμοῦ] wine of adultery. A third angel followed and said loudly, "If anyone worships this beast, and its image, and gets that forehead or hand mark, they too will drink God's wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfre, right in the presence of holy angels and the Lamb Himself. Their torment rises, and rises, and rises. No rest for those who worship the brute, its image or anyone who receives the mark of its authority." Yes, this calls again for patient endurance by believers who obey God's command-ments and remain faithful to Yeshua [cf., Mark 13:13].

Q What does "Babylon" represent? How will we know "Babylon" when we see it?

## REVELATION 14:1-12

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

...

<sup>2</sup>And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup>And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup>No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

...

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

<sup>8</sup>A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of **her** adulteries."

<sup>9</sup>A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup>he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." <sup>12</sup>This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

Revelation 14:13-20. *Gross Millenarian, Part Deux*. I then heard a voice say from heaven: "Write: closer to god are the dead who died in [ἐν] the Lord from now on." The Spirit [το is there] affirms: "They will rest from their labor [κόπος; trouble, weariness; [2873](#)], their deeds will follow them."

Q Why does "dying in the Lord" achieve a "blessed" state?

As John looked up into a white cloud, there sat the Son of Man, crowned with gold, and armed with a sickle. Then... another angel appeared calling out to the Son of Man:

*Take your sickle, reap, for the time to harvest has come. The earth is ripe for harvest.*

The Son of Man then swung His sickle across the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Q Will unbelievers duck when seeing the sickle swing?

From the temple came another angel, also armed with a sharp sickle. And another brought fire with him; calling out to the other angel, he said: *Take your sickle and gather the grape clusters. They are ripe.* The grapes were thrown into God's winepress of wrath [θυμοῦ], trampled in the winepress *outside* the city, blood flowed, flowing to about 4 feet, for about 180 miles.

Q Why were the grapes of wrath pressed? Why not spare these grapes for raisins? Or, just let them rot in the hills? Why not simply press them into oblivion?

## REVELATION 14:13-20

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

<sup>14</sup>I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" [see Daniel 7:13] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup>Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." <sup>16</sup>So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

<sup>17</sup>Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." <sup>19</sup>The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. <sup>20</sup>They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia [180 miles; 300km].

