

THE KING OF MOUNT ZION, THE LAMB, AND HIS ARMY: Rev 14:1-5

From chapter 13, the church really has only three enemies: 1) the dragon (Satan), who has no power or authority in this world or universe except what it is “given” him, 2) the beast out of the sea (the State, political government, in John’s day the Roman Empire), which receives its “power and throne and great authority” from the dragon (Satan), and 3) the beast out of the land (false prophet, false church, false religion, in John’s day apostate Judaism), which “exercises all the authority of the first beast (Rome) in his presence.”

Chapter 13 pictures a dark time for the church. The beast out of the sea makes war with the saints and overcomes them making it look like Satan would succeed in stamping out Christianity. If that was not bad enough, a second beast arises out of the land. The second beast is Old Jews who devoted themselves to Caesar instead of their Messiah. The very people who should have accepted Christ were the ones who rejected and crucified Him. Apostate Israel also makes war against the saints having “exercising all the authority of the first beast (Rome) in his (Rome’s) presence.”

Satan expresses himself through these two forces within the limited authority given to him by God, which Satan now receives through Jesus ever since the Father exalted Jesus “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come” (Eph 1:21) in accordance with the Father’s will.

Boiling down scriptura-reality, the church basically has only two enemies that will attack and make war with the church throughout the millenniums under the auspices of the first beast, the State, and the second beast, the false prophet, false church, and false religion.

Later, Revelation introduces the harlot. She is not a third enemy because she sits on the beast. Whatever the harlot represents, which we will try to find out when we get there, she is also under the auspices of the first beast, the State. Satan has two helpers (his State and false religion). Satan’s State also has two helpers (false religion and the harlot). Satan’s two beasts remain the church’s enemies throughout all millenniums until Christ Returns.

Only the Father knows when Christ will Return, not even Christ (Matt 24:36). As Charles Dinkins’ father told Charles and his brothers, “And God is not telling.” Having “the mind of Christ” provides no benefit to predicting Christ’s Return because the Father “is not telling Jesus either.” There is not a beast, two beasts, or two beasts and a harlot, or anything else that can ever be identified in the future as appearing on any scene just before Christ Returns.

Using scripture to interpret scripture to understand Revelation we understand why this is not a book of prophesy. It is a book devoted entirely to revealing Jesus Christ to His church. Looking to anything source other than scripture to understand Revelation is the same as being outside the safety of the city’s great and high walls in Rev 22:15, “Outside

are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.”

Chapter 14 turns aside from John’s flow to encourage the church by addressing the question: will the church survive the attacks from these two beasts? These beasts appear invincible. They have authority, speak arrogantly, blaspheme God, perform great signs and wonders calling down fire from heaven like Elijah in the Old Testament deceiving all in the land, and these beasts are worshiped as god. The beasts are involved in the entire world affecting world’s way of life, commerce, the world gives the beast their mind and service to the extent they cannot buy or sell without the beast’s mark.

Despite Satan’s enormous influence, chapter 14 shows the early church Satan’s forces are up against a far greater force. II Kings 6:15-17, The King of Aram (Arameans) surrounded the city of Dothan to capture God’s prophet Elijah because Elijah was telling the King of Israel “the words King Aram spoke in his bedroom” thwarting Aram’s plans against the Israelites, "Now when the attendant of the man of God (Elijah) had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city (Dothan). And his servant said unto him, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do? So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' Elisha prayed and said, 'O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the LORD opened the servant's eyes (the Lord pulled back the curtain) and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." **This is the reality of the spiritual world.** Predictably, King Aram’s men were completely defeated.

In Revelation 13, John sees seemingly invincible forces similarly aligned against the early church. Today’s church does not generally see the reality “He that is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (I John 4:4). It sees its people as suffering and waiting. Suffering to make it through Satan’s trials and waiting for the Lord Returns when everything will be alright.

Chapter 14’s message is: Put on the armor God gave you. Engage Satan and his forces in spiritual warfare. Do not be like the Red Cross who is just there mitigating pain and suffering. “Subdue and Rule” (Gen 1:28) over God’s creation, including Satan, in Christ, “rule over . . . every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (Gen 1:26). Satan presented himself to Eve as a serpent (a creeping thing). Defeat Satan in Christ in every engagement. Jesus makes all this possible in Him by faith.

After WWI, Reinhold Niebuhr, a 20th Century theologian, observed in 1929, "The church is like the Red Cross service in war time. It keeps life from degenerating into a consistent inhumanity. But it does not materially alter the fact of the struggle itself. The Red Cross neither wins the war nor abolishes it." Niebuhr says the church is just like the Red Cross not engaged in any battles, not trying to win or influence their outcomes, not trying to win the war; it is just there helping others to survive. The modern church sees itself as trying to relieve suffering until Jesus Returns.

Today, nearly 100 years after Niebuhr, the church has not matured beyond that point. The church's knowledge of Jesus Christ remains at the same 5% (forgiveness and salvation) it capped-out-at 2,000 years ago after the destruction of the entire Jewish system in 70 A.D.. The church capped its knowledge of Jesus Christ at forgiveness and salvation because it has never understood the books of Hebrews or Revelation. The church has never understood Hebrews or Revelation because it has always looked to sources other than scripture to interpret, understand, know, and apply their content.

Chapter 14 reveals to the early church it is not merely a victim in the world's struggles. God expects His church to be an active, aggressive, attacking army. There is no neutrality in the conflict between Christ and Satan. We are in Christ; therefore, we are on His side. We have at our disposal all these horses, and chariots of fire of God which the world does not see that ultimately always defeats the world in every war (most recently WWI and WWII).

Ephesians 6 describes the Lord's armor and commands us to wear it. If the church has nothing to say about whether the war is won or lost, why are we commanded wear this armor from God? Revelation teaches "Jesus is Ruler of the Kings of the earth" and is leading His church in all battlefield engagements NOW. The church does not know this because it does not understand Revelation. Do not wait until you are over-yonder to involve yourself with engaging and defeating Satan. Spiritually engage and defeat Satan in Christ "in the land of the living." The church must Believe God's word-to-See all the things available to it that it is expected to know how to use now in Christ!! The church only uses 5% and fails to know and fails to use the other 95% available now in Christ.

The church is the main contender on the battlefield. The church cannot retire to the sidelines without conceding defeat and bringing judgment upon itself! God did not set the church in the world simply to observe the conflict. He put us in the world to be in the conflict and to defeat the enemy in every engagement.

In Paganism, pagans come to religion, invent and embrace religion to escape and evade the struggle, rather than face and influence life. Paganism is an escape mechanism to get out of the struggle, not into it. Sadly, because our preachers only know the 5% of Jesus that provides forgiveness and salvation, paganistic goals better describe the modern church than even Niebuhr's Red Cross analogy. Revelation tells the church it is in the forefront of the battle because that is where Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning "in the midst of His enemies" (Psalms 110:1-2).

So now, Rev 14:1, after seeing two beasts, inspired and empowered Satan, making war against the people of God, exercising the (limited) power and influence given to Satan by God, John then sees, "the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads" (Rev 14:1).

Hebrews 12:22, "But you have come (past tense, it is already complete, we are there) to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born ones who are enrolled into heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous (just) men made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel."

You have already come to Mount Zion. **You are not marching to Zion, you are Zion. You are Mount Zion. You "have come" to Mount Zion. We are already there, the heavenly Jerusalem, to God, and to Jesus. God said it . . . Believe It! If our preachers fail to believe it, fail to see it, fail to know it, fail to preach it, that is their problem. God said it, Believe it . . . Believe-to-see (Psm 27:13). Don't wait until you get over-yonder, by then it will be too late because no faith will be available, you will physically "see" it all (both the saved and the unsaved).**

Psalms 2:1-9, "Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing (empty and useless)? The kings of the earth take their stand, the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed. Let us tear their (both the Lord and His Anointed) fetters apart, and cast away their cords from us! (same is occurring today in America, the 2020 democrat party has casted off all restraints using everything at their disposal, including the Congress and Supreme Court, to separate themselves, refuse to acknowledge, and totally reject God and His Son. Many prayers are requesting Jesus to shatter the 2020 democrat party like earthenware for their apostacies on 3 Nov 20 during America's national election, rather than Judge our entire nation in His wrath). He who sits in the heavens laughs (at the world and hopefully the 2020 democrat party), the Lord scoffs at them, then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury (we would hate to have the Lord laugh at America as if it were one of these foolish nations). But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain. (God's answer to the world tearing their fetters apart and casting away all restraints is look on Mount Zion . . . I have installed My King on My holy mountain.) I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD, he said to Me, 'Thou art My Son, this day I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the *very* ends of the earth as Thy possession. Thou shall break them with a rod of iron, Thou shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

Psalm 110:1-3, "The Lord says to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.' (Now listen) The Lord will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion (the rod of His ruling power is from Zion, the church), *saying*, 'Rule in the midst of Thine enemies.'" God is not going to take His King out of the world, God will not turn the world over to His enemies, God will not eventually destroy this world by annihilation, and then have His King begin ruling. God placed His King on Mount Zion to Rule in the midst of His enemies. It is an exciting thing to understand what Jesus does in the midst of His enemies that He is ruling over.

If the church is Mount Zion and Zion, and these are symbols of God's people, the church, and if we have come (past tense) to Mount Zion, then the church is ruling and reigning in Christ in the

midst of its enemies because the church's enemies are also Christ's enemies. We are not going to rule and reign with Christ (over-yonder), we are ruling and reigning with Him now because "We have come to Mount Zion." Preachers wrongfully push our ruling and reigning with Christ over-yonder to the church's great detriment and judgment from the wrath of Christ in the land of the living (forgiveness and salvation remain unchanged).

For the last 2,020 years, the church has failed to do a good job ruling and reigning with Christ because the church does not know what Christ became after God exalted Him. Revelation was written to reveal to the church in all millenniums who and what Christ is, and who we are in Christ. This is one of many things the church has failed to learn, to wit: who it is in Christ.

Unbelief and rejection of God's message in Revelation have caused Revelation to fail during its first two millenniums (last 2,020 years and continuing). The realities of Christ described in Hebrews and Revelation attached and applied immediately after the Father exalted Christ following His ascension, not over-yonder, but the church has failed to "See" it!! The church must Believe God's word-to-See!!

The church's habitual offense is unbelief. I guess because Christians sin daily, the church has never believed God could do what He says He has already done for us in Christ in the land of the living . . . the church does not believe God could ever forgive us to the extent required for us to be in His presence now in the heavenly places in Christ in the land of the living.

Physically, Christ is in heaven seated at the right hand of His Father serving as the Ruler of the kings of the earth, but **spiritually** Christ's body, the church, is on the earth ruling and reigning in Christ serving His Father. **Physically**, the church is on the earth ruling and reigning in Christ serving our Father, but **spiritually**, the church is in heaven seated with Christ at the right hand of His Father enjoying by faith all of heaven's richest resources found only in heaven. The church rejects all of this because of unbelief.

The church rejects the present reality of the spiritual connections between the following scriptures:

- A. Revelation 13:6, "His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven"
- B. Hebrews 10:19-20, "We have confidence to enter the holy place . . ."
 - 1. Hebrews encourages us to "dwell in heaven" by having confidence to enter "the Holy place," (Heb 10:19-20)
 - 2. Which is the same 'holy place' Christ entered "not made with hands . . . 'but Heaven itself" (Heb 9:24),
 - 3. Fulfilling "the place He prepared for us . . . that where I am *there* you may be also . . . you know the way" (John 14:3-4),
 - 4. "By the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh" (Heb 10:20)
- C. This is God's "new and living" rest uniquely designed for His New Covenant church with a prepared place for us in His Kingdom where we can now enjoy an "abundant

life" in "heaven itself" in the presence of God, seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6) at the right hand of the Father in Christ (Col 3:1)

1. The church rejects this present reality for the same reason the Old Jewish High Priests caused the entire nation of Israel to reject Christ . . . Unbelief. Psalms 27:13, "I would have despaired unless I had believed I would see the goodness Of the Lord in the land of the living." If the psalmist never believed it, he never would have seen it. Believe-to-see!
 2. Pushing our entry into heaven to over-yonder makes us exactly like the Old Covenant unbelieving Jews who went to the border of entering the promised land but turned away without entering and spent the next 40 years in the wilderness because of unbelief (Heb 3:18-19).
 3. That entire Jewish generation died in the wilderness without ever entering in. (Numbers 14:27-38). Our salvation remains sure. Failing to enter heaven in the land of the living does not impact salvation, but we lose-out on an unfathomable number of eternal rewards by rejecting God's centerpiece of achievement for us in Christ. God has made heaven and its richest resources found only in heaven available to us in Christ in the land of the living
- D. We believe the first half of God's Gospel (forgiveness). Enter into the second half of His "Good News" (heaven) using the same amount of faith as the first half.
1. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb 11:6)
 2. "Ah LORD GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee (Numbers 32:17)

Moving on, the Lamb is not alone. In the picture, John sees the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with Him 144,000. In chapter 7, we used other scripture to identify the 144,000 where the 12 tribes are mentioned multiplied by 12,000 from each tribe equals 144,000; then John talks about a great multitude so large no man can number which scripture identifies as the true Israel of God, the church, who "have His name and the name of His Father on their foreheads." We will identify the 144,000 in a little while.

Back in Rev 3:12, "He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God (which later is identified as "His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven" Rev 13:6), and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. He will have not only my name, but he will have the name of my God." Contrast this with the mark of the beast.

Rev 14:2, "And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound loud thunder, and the voice which I heard *was like the sound* of harpists playing on their harps." This is a reminder of God's presence; despite the dragon, the beasts, and their power, God is with us always through everything the church may experience. The voice of God blares through the clouds with the powerful sound of crashing waves and ear-splitting thunder. If you want to know what the voice of God is all about, read Psalm 29. It gives us the answer. His voice also comes in gentle graciousness of sweet music that calms troubled hearts.

As a result, Rev 14:3, "And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth." Here is a new song only the people of God know. The world cannot understand the triumph of the church or the church's experience. **To the world, all things do not work together for good.** **To the world, this new song is incredible and impossible because the world cannot learn it, cannot sing it, and cannot understand it. But we can. It is new to us because we now know all things work together for good. It does not work that way for the world.**

Rev 2:17, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name which is written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it." **The world cannot receive the things from the Spirit of God. The world cannot receive the new song, they cannot receive the white stone, they can receive the new name; but, this is nothing new.**

I Cor 2:14-16, Paul said, "But a natural man (actual word is "souless") does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised (discerned). But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? **But we have the mind of Christ.**" The soulless man cannot understand the things of God. Rom 11:35, Paul does not go any farther than asking the question inferring no one can comprehend the Lord's mind, "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?" But I Cor 2:16 Paul adds something very important, "But we have the mind of Christ."

I Cor 2:12, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, that we might now the things freely given to us by God.**" God did not give us the Holy Spirit to give us goosebumps or lapse into a condition where we speak in an ecstatic language. **He gave us the Holy Spirit in order that we might know might understand and know the mind of Christ.**

Rev 5:9, tells us the new song they sang, "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy art Thou to take the book and to break its seals; for Thou was slain, and did purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And Thou hast made them *to be* a kingdom (kings) and priests unto our God; and they will reign upon the Earth.'" The song is glory and honor and majesty and power and dominion to God because He redeemed us, made us kings and priest, and Christ is reigning upon the Earth. That is the new song.

Contrast that with some the songs we sing, "Feel a little prayer wheel turning and feel a little fire burning; Everything is all right on the Jericho road; Lord build me a cabin over in the corner of glory land; I'll fly away; Drop kick me Jesus through the field goals of life." Compare those with

this song, "Glory, and power, and dominion, and honor; Look what you have done for us; You made us to be a kingdom and priests; We reign upon the Earth in Christ."

Rev 14:4, the 144,000 are the true church, "These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste (he is not talking about people who have kept themselves pure as far as sexual relationships are concerned)." If you want to know what he is talking about, II Cor 11:2, "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy, for I betrothed (engaged) you to one husband, that is Christ, that I might present you *as* a pure virgin." Paul is talking about the church. In Rev 14:4, John is also talking about the church. They are virgins in that they are the church. Fornication and harlotry throughout the Bible are metaphors for apostasy and idolatry . . . Isaiah 1:21, Jeremiah 2:20-3:11, Ezekiel 16:15-43, Revelation 2:14, where it speaks of harlotry as being idolatry and an offense to God because of an unfaithful people.

This virginity consists of five things: 1) they are, first, pure, celibate, virgins meaning that is the way God sees us. We are forgiven and justified (the word justified means God accepts me just as if I never sinned. God sees us as pure, clean, and holy). We degrade ourselves and reproach to God when we try to comfort ourselves saying, "Well, I'm just an old sinner, I'm not perfect, and so-and-so is not perfect either, and the like." Although true, these statements fail to emphasize how God sees us in Christ, even though we still sin.

In God's eyes we are perfect. We are not perfect in the eyes of the world, the church, one another, or ourselves. We continue to sin, but in God's eyes we are the body of Christ. When God looks upon us, He does not see us, He sees Christ. We have been cleansed by His blood. God does not see our sins through His Son's blood. God looks upon us as if we are actually Christ, because we are in Christ, He sees Christ. That is the righteousness that God sees in us. In His eyes, His people are pure. We are forgiven, justified, and as perfect, in His eyes, as Christ.

2) The 144,000 have implicit obedience, "These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes." Note two important passages, John 12:26, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; that where I am, there shall My servant be also; and if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." We usually think by our serving Him, as we are following him. But notice this in Rev 7:17, "For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd (Psm 23), and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes." If we follow the Lamb wherever He goes, we are not only following Him in faithful duty and service as we serve Him, we also follow Him to the place where we receive springs of the water of life and to the place where God wipes away all tears. This too is available to us now, don't wait until you get over-yonder to use and enjoy it, you will have missed it!

To follow Christ means to be a partaker of the goodness that God has for us, as well as a service because Jesus leads us into the place where there are springs of life and to the place where God wipes away all tears. Psalms 23:5, "Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence my

enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runs over," because we are following Him. **This is where Christ has led us.**

3) The 144,000 have separation, "These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb." Two thoughts, we are purchased, and we are purchased as first fruits. We normally emphasize only the purchase part, which is true, we have been taken out of the kingdom of darkness, we are separate. But we are also first fruits, and that has the idea of sacrifice. We have offered ourselves-up in God's service, some to the point of death. We have been purchased in order that we might be used of God in any way He chooses to use us, even to the point of death. This is why God gives us patience and perseverance as a fruit of the Spirit, We will need to know how and when to use them.

4) The 144,000 have truth. Rev 14:5, "And no lie was found in their mouth." He is not talking about what we would call fibbing or telling a lie; it goes deeper than that. In Romans, chapter 1, Paul declares that lying has as its basis idolatry. We tend to forget that. Romans 1:22-25, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

The basis of the lie is really idolatry by exchanging the truth of God for a lie worshipping and serving the creature. **At the root, is false prophecy, which is not accepting the truth of God.** Instead of rendering honor and glory to God, they render honor and glory to the created thing (creature). Idolatry is always a lie, there is no lie found in their mouths. What they 144,000 (the church) speaks is the truth of God; it is not idolatry.

5) The 144,000 are blameless, "They are blameless (without blemish)." The world blames the church for many things. Satan hurls accusations at the church all the time because he is the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10), but he cannot make anything stick, and neither can the world. Jude 24, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to **make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless** with great joy, to the only God and Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time now and forever. Amen." He is able to make us stand before the sovereign God blameless.

The church overcomes the dragon and his beasts by taking our stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion. That is the only way to overcome the forces of evil. People of the world scared through fear of the beast and the mark of the beast because they do not know anything about it and are confused. But to the church it is really simple.