

## Dr. David Mathewson, Revelation, Session 20, Revelation 14, Salvation of Saints; Judgment on Wicked Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Mathewson, Revelation, Session 20, Revelation 14, Salvation of Saints; Judgment on Wicked, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Dave Mathewson's lecture on Revelation 14 explains the contrasting visions of **salvation for the faithful** and **judgment for the wicked**. He **analyzes four distinct sections** within chapters 14 and 15, interpreting symbolic imagery such as the 144,000, Mount Zion, and the harvests of grain and grapes. These symbols are linked to **Old Testament prophecies** and Jesus' teachings, illustrating the **final victory of the saints** and the **divine retribution** against those who sided with the beast and Babylon (representing Rome). The lecture emphasizes the themes of **perseverance, resistance to compromise, and the certainty of God's judgment**.

**2. 22 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 20 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Revelation).**



**Mathewson\_Revelation\_Session20.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture on Revelation 14, by Dr. Dave Mathewson:

#### **Briefing Document: Revelation 14 - Salvation of the Saints and Judgment on the Wicked**

##### **Overview:**

This lecture focuses on Revelation Chapter 14, exploring its themes of salvation for the faithful and judgment for the wicked. Dr. Mathewson argues that Chapter 14 presents a series of alternating scenes depicting these two outcomes. He emphasizes that these scenes are not necessarily chronological but rather different ways of illustrating the consequences of choices made in the conflict described in Chapters 12 and 13. The lecture breaks down chapter 14 into four main sections.

##### **Key Sections & Themes:**

#### **1. The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion (14:1-5):**

- **Victory of the Saints:** This section depicts the 144,000, representing the redeemed people of God, standing victoriously with the Lamb (Jesus Christ) on Mount Zion, a place of God's rule, protection, and salvation. This directly contrasts with the followers of the beasts in chapter 13.
- **Contrast to the Beasts:** The Lamb is intentionally presented as a stark contrast to the beast from chapter 13, who was a parody of Christ, and the second beast which had "two horns like a lamb". Jesus is portrayed as the one who died and was slain but now is alive, in contrast with the beast who appears to have died and now risen.
- **Symbolism of the 144,000:** These are not literal individuals or a specific group, but rather a symbolic representation of the entire redeemed people of God, "purchased from among men" and "redeemed from the earth," including both Jew and Gentile. This echoes Revelation 1:5, with the idea that Jesus redeems people from "every tribe and language and nation." They are an "international people of God."

- **Purity and Following the Lamb:** The 144,000 are described as virgins or those who have "not defiled themselves with women" which represents purity, faithfulness, and resistance to idolatry. This is not necessarily a reference to literal sexual purity but a symbol of abstaining from the idolatrous practices of Rome. They are those who "follow the Lamb wherever he goes," even to the point of death, which is highlighted as a central theme of the book of Revelation.
- **Mount Zion:** This is not only a symbol of God's dwelling and protection, but also the location where God will deliver his people, as mentioned in Isaiah 2:2, which states, "In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains...and all nations will stream to it."
- **First Fruits:** The 144,000 are also described as "first fruits to God." This is an agricultural term that represents the first part of the harvest, which guarantees the rest. In the Old Testament, the entire nation of Israel was sometimes referred to as the first fruit, not a smaller group, so the 144,000 here should also be seen as a representation of the entire end-time people of God.
- **Contrast to Chapters 11-13:** In chapters 11-13, the people of God appear to suffer defeat but now in Chapter 14 they are shown to have won the victory.

#### 1. Key Quotes:

- "The main theme of the book is that God's people are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes, even if it means following him to the point of death."
- "Mount Zion is an image for the place where God rules, a place of protection and security."
- "The first fruit... was the initial part of the fuller harvest that had yet to come."

#### 1. Proclamation of the Three Angels (14:6-13):

- **The Eternal Gospel:** The first angel proclaims an "eternal gospel," calling people to fear God, give Him glory, and acknowledge His judgment. This is potentially seen as a call to repentance, which may be the case in other parts of Revelation.
- **Judgment on Babylon:** The second angel announces the fall of "Babylon the Great," which is likely a symbolic reference to Rome, representing an anti-godly, idolatrous, and oppressive empire. Babylon is the place "which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

- **Consequences of Worshipping the Beast:** The third angel declares the severe judgment that awaits those who worship the beast and receive his mark. This includes "drinking the wine of God's fury," "torment with burning sulfur," and "no rest day or night."
- **Eternal Judgment:** The language of smoke rising forever and ever signifies the eternal nature of the judgment, which echoes the way the destruction of Babylon is described in chapters 17 and 18. The smoke and sulfur symbolism is derived from the Old Testament and signifies severe suffering from the divine judgment.
- **Motivation for Perseverance:** The proclamation of judgment is intended to motivate the saints to persevere, knowing that God will ultimately vindicate them and judge the wicked. It also serves as a warning to those who might compromise, reminding them that failure to resist would result in their being recipients of that judgment.
- **God Avenging his People:** The judgment is presented as God avenging the blood of his saints and vindicating the faithful witness and suffering of his people.

#### 1. Key Quotes:

- "A second angel also followed and said, fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries"
- "There is no rest for them day or night, for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."
- "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."
- "In the Old Testament, God's wrath as a cup of wine was a common metaphor for God's judgment"

#### 1. The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20):

- **Not a Chronological Sequence:** These harvest images are not presented as events happening after the angelic proclamations, but rather as different ways to depict what has already been described.
- **Two Harvests:** This section is divided into two distinct harvest scenes: a grain harvest and a grape harvest.

- **Grain Harvest (14:14-16):** This is a *positive* harvest, depicting the Son of Man (Jesus) reaping the earth and gathering the faithful for their eternal reward, reflecting the "first fruits" image from earlier in the chapter and the 144,000. This harvest is described as the crop being preserved while the weeds are destroyed, drawing imagery from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 13, and includes the teaching from John 4 that the harvest is for eternal life.
- **Grape Harvest (14:17-20):** This scene is a *negative* harvest, depicting an angel gathering grapes that are then trampled in a winepress outside the city, symbolizing the judgment of unbelievers. This imagery is taken from Old Testament texts like Joel 3:13 and Isaiah 62, which describe grapes being trampled as a sign of end-time judgment. The juice from the crushed grapes turns into blood, which symbolizes the blood of the victims of final judgment.
- **Corresponding Sections:** The two harvests correlate to the two groups of people described earlier in the chapter: the redeemed (14:1-5) and the wicked (14:8-11).
- **Trampled in the Wine Press:** The scene of trampling in the wine press outside the city is connected with the idea of Zion mentioned at the beginning of chapter 14, in that this judgment is taking place *outside* of the city.
- **Blood as a Symbol:** The description of the blood flowing from the winepress "rising as high as the horse's bridles for a distance of 1600 stadia" should not be taken literally but is instead another image to emphasize the intensity and scope of God's judgment.

#### 1. Key Quotes:

- "These two further scenes, this scene in the form of a grain harvest and the scene in the form of a grape harvest, these further describe the events taking place in the earlier part of the chapter."
- "Verses 14 through 16 correspond to chapter 14, one through five, the 144,000, the first fruits to God."
- "Verses 17 through the end of the chapter correspond to eight through 11... the judgment of unbelievers"
- "But what is interesting in the judgment scene is the juice that comes out of the wine ends up being blood."

**Overall Interpretation:**

Dr. Mathewson interprets Revelation 14 as a powerful portrayal of the two paths available to individuals facing persecution: faithfulness and compromise. He asserts that those who follow the Lamb and remain pure in their allegiance to God will ultimately find victory, salvation, and reward. Meanwhile, those who choose to follow the beast, give in to the idolatry and the demands of the world, will face God's righteous judgment. The different images used in the chapter are not meant to be a chronological sequence of events, but they are different ways of conveying the meaning of the final outcome. The key themes include:

- **Perseverance:** The importance of persevering and remaining faithful to Jesus in the face of persecution.
- **God's Sovereignty:** God's ultimate sovereignty and his just judgment of both the righteous and the wicked.
- **The Nature of Salvation:** Salvation as belonging to those who refuse to compromise and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
- **The Consequences of Idolatry:** The consequences of idolatry, worshiping earthly powers, and not resisting evil.

**Conclusion:**

Revelation 14 provides a stark contrast between the ultimate destinies of those who remain faithful to God and those who choose to follow the world and its false idols. This is emphasized through the alternating visions of salvation and judgment, with the lecture highlighting the significance of the imagery and symbolism drawn from both the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus.

## 4. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 20, Revelation 14, Salvation of Saints; Judgment on Wicked

### Revelation 14 Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What are the two main themes explored in Revelation 14 and 15?
2. What are the four sections of Revelation 14 and 15 identified by the phrase "I looked," or "I saw?"
3. In Revelation 14:1-5, who are the 144,000, and what are their characteristics?
4. What is the significance of Mount Zion in the context of Revelation 14?
5. According to the first angel in Revelation 14:6-7, what should the inhabitants of earth do?
6. What does the second angel proclaim in Revelation 14:8, and what does it symbolize?
7. According to the third angel in Revelation 14:9-11, what will be the consequence for those who worship the beast?
8. What imagery does the text use to describe the intensity of God's judgment?
9. In Revelation 14:14-16, what does the harvest of the earth represent, and who is doing the harvesting?
10. In Revelation 14:17-20, what does the grape harvest symbolize, and what happens to the harvested grapes?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The two main themes explored in Revelation 14 and 15 are the salvation and reward of the faithful saints and the judgment and punishment of the wicked and unbelieving. The author alternates visions between these two themes to emphasize the final judgment and salvation.
2. The four sections are: the Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion (14:1-5); three angels proclaiming the gospel and judgment (14:6-13); the Son of Man harvesting

the earth (14:14-20); and the victorious saints by the sea singing a song of victory (15:1-4).

3. The 144,000 are the redeemed followers of the Lamb, standing with him on Mount Zion. They are characterized by having the Lamb and the Father's name on their foreheads, having not defiled themselves with women (symbolically meaning they did not engage in idolatry), and being purchased as first fruits to God and the Lamb.
4. Mount Zion is portrayed as a place of God's rule, protection, and security, where God will deliver his people and where the final salvation will occur. It is also associated with the New Jerusalem and signifies the place of God's presence.
5. The angel calls on all nations to fear God and give him glory because the hour of his judgment has come. He calls the inhabitants of earth to worship the one who created the heavens, earth, sea, and springs of water.
6. The second angel proclaims, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great," which symbolizes the impending judgment on Rome, an idolatrous and oppressive empire, and those who participate in its evil practices. It is a symbol for any anti-God empire.
7. Those who worship the beast and receive his mark will drink the wine of God's fury, be tormented with burning sulfur, and have no rest day or night, symbolizing the eternal consequences of allegiance to evil.
8. The intensity of God's judgment is described through imagery like drinking the cup of God's wrath, being tormented with burning sulfur, and smoke rising forever, drawing on Old Testament symbols of severe divine judgment.
9. The harvest of the earth represents the gathering of the righteous people of God, the first fruits, for their eternal reward. It is a positive harvest done by the Son of Man, representing Jesus Christ, who is enacting God's will.
10. The grape harvest symbolizes the judgment of the unbelieving world and those who aligned themselves with the beast. The harvested grapes are thrown into the wine press of God's wrath and trampled, with blood flowing from the press, signifying the severe consequences for the wicked.



## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the symbolism of the 144,000 in Revelation 14:1-5, considering their relationship to both the Old Testament concept of Israel and the broader Christian understanding of the Church. Discuss the potential implications of understanding them as a literal or symbolic group.
2. Compare and contrast the messages and roles of the three angels in Revelation 14:6-11, paying particular attention to how they relate to each other and contribute to the overarching themes of salvation and judgment in the chapter.
3. Discuss the dual imagery of harvest in Revelation 14:14-20, exploring the significance of both the grain harvest and the grape harvest in the context of God's judgment and salvation. How do these images reinforce the earlier themes presented in the chapter?
4. Examine the use of Old Testament language and imagery in Revelation 14, such as the concept of Mount Zion, the idea of first fruits, and the imagery of the wine press. What do these references contribute to the overall meaning of the chapter?
5. Consider the theme of "following the Lamb wherever he goes" in Revelation 14 and analyze its significance for the persecuted church during John's time and for believers today. How does this theme encourage faithful living in the face of suffering and compromise?

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Babylon:** A symbolic name used in Revelation, representing an anti-God, idolatrous, oppressive empire, often referring to the Roman Empire.

**Beast:** In Revelation, refers to a powerful and evil entity, symbolic of a political or spiritual force that opposes God and persecutes believers.

**First Fruits:** An Old Testament agricultural term referring to the first part of a harvest, offered to God as a guarantee of more to come. In Revelation, used to describe the 144,000 as an offering representing God's people.

**Lamb:** A symbol for Jesus Christ, highlighting his sacrificial death and his role as the redeemer of humanity.

**Mount Zion:** A symbolic place representing the dwelling of God, a place of protection, security, and the final salvation of his people. It is often equated with the heavenly Jerusalem.

**New Jerusalem:** The city of God that descends from heaven after the defeat of evil and the final judgment.

**Son of Man:** A title for Jesus Christ, derived from Daniel 7, highlighting his divine authority and his role in bringing about God's kingdom.

**Stadia:** A unit of length in ancient Greece, 1600 stadia, or 200 miles, refers to the breadth of the judgment in Revelation.

**The 144,000:** A symbolic number representing the redeemed people of God, a mighty army that has overcome the world through their faith and endurance.

**Winepress of God's Wrath:** A metaphor for God's judgment, where the wicked are crushed like grapes, symbolizing the severity and finality of their punishment.

## 5. FAQs on Mathewson, Revelation, Session 20, Revelation 14, Salvation of Saints; Judgment on Wicked, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions about Revelation 14

1. **What is the main focus of Revelation 14, and how does it relate to the preceding chapters?**
2. Revelation 14 focuses on the dual themes of the salvation of the faithful and the judgment of the wicked. It acts as a response to the conflict portrayed in Chapters 12 and 13, where the church faced persecution from Satan and the beasts. Chapter 14 showcases the victorious reward for those who persevered and refused to compromise, contrasting it with the judgment awaiting those who followed the beast and his idolatrous system. The chapter alternates between visions of salvation and judgment, exploring the meaning of both.
3. **Who are the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 14:1-5, and what is their significance?**
4. The 144,000 are not a literal number, nor do they represent only ethnic Israelites. Instead, they are a symbolic representation of the entire redeemed people of God from all nations—both Jews and Gentiles—who have remained faithful to the Lamb (Jesus Christ). They stand victorious on Mount Zion, having resisted the idolatrous practices of the beast (Rome). They are described as "first fruits" to God and the Lamb, not as a group that anticipates more people to come, but as the complete number of the end-time people of God. The term "first fruits" guarantees the complete harvest of God's people.
5. **What is the significance of Mount Zion in Revelation 14:1?**
6. Mount Zion is symbolic of the place where God rules, a place of protection, security, and God's presence. It represents the dwelling place of God and serves as the end-time New Jerusalem. In Revelation 14, it is the place where the Lamb and the 144,000 stand victorious, signifying God's ultimate victory and the final salvation of his people. It contrasts with the chaos and persecution the saints faced in previous chapters. It is a place of refuge and salvation and where God brings deliverance.

7. **What is the message of the three angels in Revelation 14:6-13, and how do they relate to each other?**
8. The three angels each proclaim a message related to both repentance and judgment. The first angel proclaims the eternal gospel, calling all to fear God and give Him glory, for His judgment is at hand. This is a call to repent and turn to God, implying that those who refuse face judgment. The second angel announces the fall of Babylon (a symbolic representation of Rome), highlighting the judgment on those who partake in her idolatry. The third angel warns of the severe torment awaiting those who worship the beast and receive his mark. These three messages all function together as they showcase both God's call to salvation, his judgment on those who reject, and also a warning to those who may be tempted to compromise.
9. **What does Babylon represent in the context of Revelation 14:8?**
10. Babylon in Revelation is not just a historical city; it's a symbol of an anti-godly, arrogant, idolatrous, and oppressive nation or empire. In the first century setting of Revelation, Babylon is a code for Rome and its idolatrous and oppressive system that demanded worship and allegiance. The fall of Babylon signifies the judgment and eventual downfall of all such systems of wickedness and oppression.
11. **How do the grain harvest and the grape harvest scenes in Revelation 14:14-20 relate to the themes of salvation and judgment?**
12. The two harvest scenes in Revelation 14 are not presented as separate events but are additional imagery used to depict events that have already been described in earlier parts of the chapter. The grain harvest represents the positive gathering of God's faithful people—the first fruits—for eternal reward, corresponding to the vision of the 144,000. In contrast, the grape harvest represents the judgment of the wicked. The grapes are trampled in the winepress of God's wrath, highlighting the severe consequences for those who followed the beast and rejected God's call to repentance. The grain harvest depicts salvation while the grape harvest depicts judgement.

- 13. Why is the image of the winepress described as having blood flow out of it, reaching the horse's bridles?**
14. The graphic image of blood flowing out of the winepress to the height of horses' bridles is a symbolic and apocalyptic image taken from the Old Testament (like Joel and Isaiah), depicting the vastness and severity of God's judgment upon the wicked and those who align with the beast. It's not meant to be a literal description but an image of the scale of divine retribution. The image is intended to convey the intensity and extent of God's righteous judgment on all those who have opposed Him.
- 15. What is the overall message of Revelation 14 for its original audience, and how can it apply to contemporary believers?**
16. Revelation 14 was meant to encourage the first-century Christian community to remain faithful in the face of intense persecution. It underscores the reality that God will ultimately bring about final judgment on evil and reward those who persevere in following the Lamb. For contemporary believers, this chapter provides assurance that despite trials and tribulations, God's people are secure and that justice will prevail. It urges believers to resist temptation, to remain pure, and to live faithfully, knowing that those who follow the Lamb to the end will ultimately experience victory with him. It also acts as a warning that those who choose to compromise may find themselves subject to judgement.