

THE REVELATION
CHAPTER 14
Complete.

It is not unreasonable to think that Chapter 14 actually starts with 14:6. This is due to the context found in the ending of Chapter 13, regarding the enforced marking of the Beast and the worshipping of the vitalized Image of the Beast. These verses and the symbols are well explained in the 4th. Volume 1912 Forward.

We will content ourselves here with just referring to the notes for the 13th. Chapter on the details.

Vs.1

Rotherham's translation:

And I saw, and lo! The Lamb standing upon the mount Zion, - and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his name and his Father's name written upon their foreheads.

This is a glimpse at a still future event - the final outcome of the main purpose of the Gospel Age, that is, to find, develop and test 144,000 individuals who have a crystalized character likeness to God and to Jesus (Romans 8:29: *"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed (copies), to the image of His son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*)

The Lamb standing upon the mount Zion

This is of course Jesus in glory. It is not the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah', symbol, perhaps because it is a constant reminder of how Jesus achieved his great victory, by sacrificing (without sin), unto death, effecting the ransom for all.

Standing is a position of power and mount Zion is the spiritual phase of the Kingdom of God.

And with him a hundred and forty-four thousand

This is the Church, the Bride of Christ. They are also his Mystical Body members, to which he is the Head. We read of these in Chapter 7, 12,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel. Please see notes on that chapter for details. Suffice it to write here that there are four basic temperament types, and that each of these can be mixed with another temperament type, hence $4 \times 3 = 12$ possible basic temperaments. Added to these are each person's experiences so that the LORD in His great wisdom pre-determined to have a Church Class that would be able to both identify and emphasize with every human as they walk of the Highway of

Holiness. These were the faithful unto death Saints. This is whom the Revelation is primarily written for.

Having his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads

This will be the divine family – the Father God Almighty, the New Creation - His Son Jesus and the Church. All will have the divine spiritual nature, immortality, life within oneself. It is only appropriate that they have the divine family name of the Father who had spirit-begotten them (as well as Jesus), and the name of their Bridegroom. For example, when a bride marries and takes on her husband's surname as her own, it is the family name from his father. From that time forward, she has a former, pre-marriage – “maiden name”.

But perhaps more importantly, names often suggest characteristics, and in this setting the name written on the forehead implies that these have the character's that best resemble the characteristics of God their Father and Jesus their Head. This is in glaring contrast to those who received the “mark” of the Beast in their foreheads or right hands, as shown in the preceding verses.

Vs. 2, 3 Diaglott:

And I heard a voice (sound) from heaven, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of great thunder; and the voice (sound) which I heard was as that of harpers playing on their harps; and they sing a new song in the presence of the throne, and in the presence of the four living ones, and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the hundred forty-four thousand, - those who were redeemed from the earth.

The context from verse one into these two verses and continuing into verse 4 and 5, demonstrate that the **sound** is that of the 144,000. We are given four descriptions of this sound:

Sound from heaven: yes, the 144,000 are in heavenly glory, the spirit realm.

Sound of many waters: waters can represent diverse languages or peoples (Rev. 17:15). The 144,000 were called from Jews and Gentiles, a world-wide and Gospel Age length of time for their selection in order to best represent the human family.

Sound of great thunder: thunder is often symbolic for controversy, however, it is also used as a proclamation. In this context of heaven itself, before the throne of God, it is better understood to be a grand proclamation which we will consider next.

Sound of harpers playing on their harps: the harpers are the 144,000. They play their stringed instruments. These harpers play harmoniously, that is they can bring forth a harmony of Scriptural true doctrines and prophecies that illustrates God's divine plan of the Ages.

And they sing a new song

This new song is a glorious, harmonious, choral ANTHEM of praise! It is a musical PROCLAMATION, sung by many voices – people – the 144,000. What is this NEW song? It reminds us of Rev. 5:8, 9, 10:

“And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of saints.

And they (the 4 living creatures and 24 elders from verse 8), SANG A NEW SONG, saying Thou art worthy to take the scroll and to open the seals thereof, for thou was slain and hast redeemed for God by thy blood out of every kindred and language and people and nation, and hast made them unto our God kings and priests and they shall reign over the earth.”

It seems that this symbol – sing a new song – has the thought of an ANTHEM celebrating the completion of an extremely important part of God’s Plan of the Ages. In Revelation 5th; chapter, it is that Jesus provided the ransom price, the guarantee that there would be a future 144,000 kings and priests to work with him to restore all the willing and obedient of mankind.

So too, in Revelation 14th chapter, it is the 144,000 in glory singing an ANTHEM before God, in His throne room, that what the Lamb slain had started at the First Advent, is now completed at his Second Advent, that is, the completion of the Kings and priests after the order of Melchizedek. The main work of the Gospel Age was accomplished!

In the presence of the throne, and in the presence of the four living creatures, and the elders

As we read in chapter 5, at the beginning of the Gospel Age, the four character attributes of God were looking forward to the completion of the Kings and Priests, and the twenty-four elders – the Old Testament prophecies pointing to a future Church Class to work with the Lamb (consider Micah 5:5 and Obadiah 21, along with the various types and Shadows – Aaron’s sons, the Lord’s goat on the Day of Atonement, etc..). So here in chapter 14 we have that Class now complete and singing their new song. These are the two bookends so to speak of the Gospel Age development of the Church Class.

And no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth.

We have several insights here, first, even though many were “called” and many were spirit-begotten, all had the same hope – to be of the Bride of Christ, to be one of the 144,000. The Great Company do not know this “song”.

These were redeemed from the earth, that is, no angelic beings were offered this “high calling”, only ransomed humans were eligible. Why? Because God’s wisdom had previously determined that His plan for rehabilitating humans required 144,000 fellow, fallen humans who had the same trials and difficulties. Angels being created perfect and of a completely different nature could not fill this role.

These are they which were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wherever he went. These were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

The Bride of Christ, is actually made up of males and females, bond and free, Jews and Gentiles (Galatians 3:28). But here they are depicted as being virgins, those that did not defile themselves by uniting with worldly leaders, like the spiritual “harlots” did (Revelation 17), committing spiritual adultery. Rather, these continued chaste virgins, betrothed to Jesus. These were willing to follow their conscience to forsake any spiritually compromising relationship, particularly that of the Nominal Churches.

These followed so closely to the Lamb, that eventually they are privileged to STAND WITH HIM ON MOUNT ZION!

Again the emphasis that these were of the redeemed human race. In fact, they were the first to be redeemed by faith justification during the Gospel Age, before the rest of mankind.

They are a first-fruit, implying a second fruitage, that is, the restored human family (I Corinthians 15:23, James 1:18). The expression “fruit” or “fruitage”, brings to mind the thought of an effort to nurturing and growth. And so it is with the 144,000, they all started out very poorly as fallen sinful humans, but by the grace of God and Jesus, these developed properly and they demonstrate what can be hoped for in restored mankind – the “second fruitage”.

Vs. 5

And in their mouth was found no lie, for they are without blame.

What a wonderful testimony! These faithfully expressed the truth of God’s character as brought to light in the Divine Plan of the Ages. They did not teach error or mis-lead others for their own selfish gain.

As stated before, the 14th. Chapter starts more logically with verse 6.

However, a few observations first:

- a. Verses 6-20 have 6 angels. These are 6 MESSAGES. Each MESSAGE is ordained by God.
- b. These 6 Messages come during the Harvest period of the Gospel Age. They are divided into two groups of three.
- c. The first three Messages are given in sequential order and they are warnings, each one becomes more severe.
- d. After a break in the narrative and we are introduced to our returned Lord Jesus, the second group of 3 Messages also come in sequential order, however, we back-track in time to more or less match up with first three messages at the beginning of the Harvest. These second three Messages are instructions for Harvesting ACTIONS.

Verses 6, 7:

And I saw an angel (message) fly in the midst of heaven, having the age-lasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, language and people. Saying with a loud voice, fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgement is come: and worship Him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters.

This first message started to be proclaimed in 1874, the beginning of the Harvest period.

Midst of heaven

This symbolizes a change in God's divine plan of the ages. The Harvest of the Gospel Age starts.

Age-lasting gospel to preach

The best news ever of the ransom and restitution for all!

To them that dwell on the earth, every nation, kindred, language and people

A world-wide message that would reach all four corners of earth, especially to reach all those that have a measure of faith.

Saying with a loud voice

We notice it is a loud voice – a MESSAGE – one that is proclaimed in every form of media known, printed, verbal and electronic.

Fear God and give Him glory

Worship the Creator, not the Counterfeit as presented in the preceding Chapter.

For the hour of His judgement is come

The Harvest time is for the purpose of separating and gathering the true Wheat or Church out from those who are merely nominal Christians – the tares.

Worship Him that made heaven and earth and the sea (salt water) and the fountains of waters (fresh water).

Again the admonition / warning, worship the one true God who actually created all things and not the Beast (Papacy) and the vitalized Image of the Beast (Federated Protestantism).

Vs. 8

A second angel (message) followed saying: Fallen is Babylon the great, who has caused all the nations to drink of wine of the wrath of her fornication.

The second Message of warning declares the fall or rejection (in 1878 AD), of Babylon - Papacy and all nominal Church systems that follow Papacy's example of teaching that Church and government are to cooperate together – committing spiritual adultery, because they were not content to remain as "Virgins" committed to Jesus the Bridegroom and wait for him to return with HIS Kingdom.

The wine of her wrath represents their doctrinal false teachings of the Church being involved with politics.

Vs. 9 – 11

And the third angel (Message) followed them saying with a loud voice: If any man worship the beast and his image and received a mark in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out undiluted into the cup of His indignation and he shall be tormented with fire and Sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image and whosoever received the mark of his name.

The third Message or warning has now taken on a more stringent tone – more of a judgement and punishment for those who do not heed the previous two Messages of warning. Again, it is a "loud voice", that is, it will be heard.

This judgement / warning message is very specifically targeting those who either cooperate or mentally agree with the false doctrines and false practices of the Papacy and or Federated Protestants. It is especially directed to those who capitulate during the enforced marking of these two systems as outlined in chapter 13:15-18.

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out undiluted into the cup of His indignation

Those unfaithful true Christians and those who are nominally Christian SHALL drink – these are forced by events transpiring under God’s direction, to be made aware of God’s true doctrines, strong undiluted truths, that will demolish their erroneous beliefs about Him, Jesus and who is the true Church.

Just we read in vs.8 that Babylon the great has “wine of wrath”, that was here false doctrine, so too, God has His “wine of wrath”, true doctrine, and God’s wrath is mightier far!

This is a very convincing argument that the seven last plagues are truths that will completely expose the demonic inspired false teachings and false practices of Papacy the mother of harlots and her daughters. Among other falsehoods, the “abomination that makes desolate”, that Daniel wrote about, that is – transubstantiation – that replaced the once for all Ransom of Jesus, will be shown to be utterly blasphemous. The reality is God the Father offered His only begotten Son Jesus to be our ransom sacrifice, as portrayed by Abraham offering up his willing son Isaac. The counterfeit is the Roman Catholic priest taking the place of God and pretending to transform a soda cracker and juice into Jesus and then sacrificing him afresh, over and over again all around the world year after year.

It is God’s indignation – He will expose and destroy all these errors before the Kingdom of peace phase begins.

And he shall be tormented with fire and Sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image and whosoever received the mark of his name.

These is the torment of a convicted conscious. The fire and Sulphur fumes symbolize the absolute and complete decimation of their previously believed in doctrinal convictions, as well as those that only cooperated with such outlandish Church systems. Their mental/emotional pain demonstrates that they had a measure of the “light of conscience” that they denied within themselves.

This is the same time as the burning of the bundled Tares – those only nominally Christian. It is the torment of conscience for those who after the Harvest Message had gone forth world-wide, did not heed the call to “come out of her MY people, that you partake not of her sins and receive of her plagues.” Rev. 18:4.

Perhaps the presence of the “holy messengers” and “the Lamb”, are another reference to the time period, that is during Christ Parousia – presence – and that of his completed Body Members, the Little Flock.

The smoke implies a burning, a judgement. We think of literal judgements in the past like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, which God destroyed with fire and Sulphur, one might be far away and yet still see the evidence of their destruction. So too this symbolic smoke will forever demonstrate that all who are disobedient God and His truths, those who cooperate with any organizations that promote God dishonoring teachings and practices, will suffer His harsh judgements. This is a lesson for all time, just as the permission of evil is a one-time experience.

No rest day or night – no one can escape their own condemned conscience, it is 24/7.

Vs. 12

Here is the patience (endurance) of the Saints – those that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

This is intended to be a conclusion of the preceding verses 6-11. It is a dramatic encouragement for the Feet Members of The Christ. Keep focused on doing what God has taught us and to cultivate the depth of faith as Jesus had, even as he had to endure the persecution by the two corrupted nominal Jewish religious sects that brought him before the civil authority, Pontius Pilate.

Vs. 13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying “Write – from this time, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors for their works do follow them.

This verse further emphasizes the change in context from the first set of 3 Messages and the second set of 3.

A voice from heaven demonstrates that this message is directed to the spiritually minded. There is a specific time, 1878 AD and onward, in which it would be true that there would be a special blessing to be realized by those who were already “dead” to self-will, fully consecrated and had fully kept their covenant of sacrifice until they actually, literally died in the flesh. The Apostle Paul confirms this and gives us additional insights. I Corinthians 15:51-53:

“Behold, I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Here we are told that even though it is a mystery to the uninformed, we are privileged to know that during the time of the sounding of the symbolic last or seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19, starting to sound in 1874 AD), all of the Little Flock who had previously literally died, would be raised and thereafter, those of the Little Flock who would be faithful unto death, would not have to “sleep” in the death condition (non-existence), because their Lord Jesus had returned for them and now they can be immediately resurrected to their immortal spiritual bodies, the divine nature!

yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors for their works do follow them.

The encouraging truth message is that to these faithful ones, WHO HAD BEEN LABORING, will forever after cease from the laborious aspect of working in the LORD’S service, because they become divine beings. Yet blessedly to them, they will be privileged to continue to serve the LORD into eternity, which was and will be their heart’s desire.

Vs. 14

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle.

This is another change in context, now we are going back to the beginning of the Harvest 1874 AD, when Jesus returned to earth’s atmosphere.

The white cloud shows the top side or heaven’s view of the clouds, whereas the view from earth is one of dark clouds, trouble, compare Revelation 1:7 *“Behold, he (Jesus), comes with clouds (trouble), and every eye shall see him (mentally perceive), and they which pierced him (the Jewish people, consider Zechariah 12:10), and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him (yes the time of trouble upon his return), Even so, Amen.”*

It is the same “cloud”, but from a different perspective. In our verse Jesus is portrayed as a returning King with divine authority to rule. The Scriptures are many that demonstrate that Jesus’ reign begins with trouble and blessings, for it is the time of the great transition from the Old Heaven and Old Earth to the New Heaven and New Earth.

Jesus is holding a sharp sickle, which is a harvesting tool. It symbolizes the penetrating sharp truths of the Harvest Message, which will accomplish the work of harvesting the Wheat and Tares, those who claim to be Christians. He is the Chief Reaper and King.

Vss. 15, 16

And another angel (Message) came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud – “thrust in thy sickle and reap, for the time (hour), is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe (dried). And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped.

This is the fourth Message. Remember, these 3 Messages are for ACTION.

It comes from the temple, this represents a higher or great authority than Jesus. This represents God and His Divine Plan of the Ages, which Jesus is always submissive to and zealously serving.

A loud voice, again an unmistakable moving forward of the Plan of God, a new action is to begin and Jesus is to initiate it.

“thrust in thy sickle and reap, for the time (hour), is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe (dried).

The Greek word for hour or time here is “hora”. It can be literal or figurative. Here it is figurative and denotes a “season” or “period of time”. Yes, the Harvesting of the Gospel Age is a period of time, not a short hour or 24 hour day as some might think. It is the “ripe” or “dried” harvest of the earth. This represents the Wheat portion of the Harvesting. It is dried also in that it is in contrast to the second harvesting work portrayed in verses 18-20, a wet harvest of the grapes of the vine of the earth.

As Revelation 14:14-20 describe two parts of the harvesting work, both accomplished with a sharp sickle, so too does Jesus’ parable of the Wheat and Tares in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. We will not quote it in its entirety here, but merely make several references.

In the parable we learn that the harvest will be at the end of the Age – the Gospel Age, starting in 1874 AD. The Son of man (as here in vs. 14), shall send forth his angels (messengers, all those who love and serve the truth), to separate the Wheat (faithful members of the Little Flock), from the Tares (merely nominal, un-spirit-begotten, imitation Christians). It is the same message of Truth, like a sharp sickle that will accomplish the work. It is a world-wide separation. Yet, it unfolds in two parts. First, the reapers are to gather the Tares into bundles (later) to be burned. And to gather the Wheat into a safe place, first gathered out from Babylon (“Come out of her MY people), out of the “city” condition of the Church systems, into the “wilderness” condition of being united to the Lord (they follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth), and gather together with other like minded true Christians. And later, after they have individually been tested, when they die

in the flesh, they are instantly changed in the twinkling of an eye to be with the Lord in the air or Greek “atmosphere” - (compare I Thessalonians 4:14-18).

After the Wheat are all safely separated and gathered together in the “barn”, then the bundles of Tares (those who trust to their Church denominations for protection), are cast into a fiery furnace – the greatest time of trouble even known. There in that condition of being burned (destroyed) as false Christians, they will “wailing and gnash their teeth” in anguish of heart and mind when they realize that all they trusted in (the mark of the Beast and of his Image), was worse than worthless, the errors actually blinded them from the truth of God’s character, Jesus’ great ransoming work and the High Calling for the Bride of Christ!

This very anguish is what was described as to what will happen to them in Revelation 14:9-11, the third Message.

So then, in the parable it is one grand Harvest but in two parts. The first part is for the Wheat Class, the 144,000. The second part is for the nominal Christians the Tares.

Vs. 17

And another angel (message) came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

A fifth Message emanates from God and His Divine Plan of the Ages. This message contains sharp, dividing truths. It is also a part of the Harvest Message that has the ability to separate and divide the Wheat from the Tares.

We note that in verses 14-20, there are only two sharp sickles. The first one is with Jesus, the Chief Reaper and in verse 17, this message, which also has a sharp sickle. Why only two? Again the emphasis that there are two parts to the great Harvest.

Here is an important interpretive observation: in verses 14-20 we are first shown Jesus with a sharp sickle in hand (vs. 14), but he is not using it – yet. In vs. 15, a message comes forth without a sickle, but instructs Jesus to use the sickle in his hand, and in vs. 16 Jesus does use it to complete the dry or Wheat harvest. Next in vs. 17 we have a message also having a sharp sickle, but it is not being used, apparently waiting for further instructions. In vs. 18 a message does come forth and instructs that the sickle be used to gather or harvest the Vine of the earth. So in verse 19, the fifth message (of vs. 17), then goes forth and begins the action of harvesting the Vine of the earth aka the bundled Tares.

The lesson is that the Plan of God has had the sharp separating TRUE DOCTRINES of the Harvest Message long before it was the time of Harvest. And when the TIME to harvest the Gospel Age begins in 1874 AD, the first part of the

Harvest takes place. Likewise these same sharp TRUE DOCTRINES, that have long been in existence, just WAITING to be used, will go forth AFTER the Wheat harvest is accomplished and will then gather the Vine of the earth – the great nominal Church systems of the Beast (Papacy) and the Image (Federated Protestantism), aka the bundled Tares, and cause them to be destroyed.

In other words, we are not to expect a NEW message of truth to be used to destroy Churchianity, rather it will be the same OLD message of truth (as found in the 7 Trumpets and 7 Last Plagues), that will be forced - by God directed circumstances upon them.

Vs.18

And another angel (Message) came out from the alter having authority over fire, and called out with a loud voice to him that had the sharp sickle saying “send your sharp sickle and cut off the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.

This is the sixth and last Message. Actually, if we include Jesus, we have a total of seven – complete. This message emanates from the alter. This is the brazen alter, for it alone had fire (the golden alter only had coals of fire brought from the brazen alter in censor pans to receive the holy incense). An alter appears seven times in the Revelation (6:9; 8:3, 5; 9:13; 11:1; 14:18; 16:7). In two it is the golden alter and in 5 it is the brazen alter. Fire from the alter in 8:5 creates judgement messages. In 16:7 the alter represents God’s judgements. So too here, this alter and the authority over fire represents the JUDGEMENT in God’s Divine Plan of the Ages upon the nominal Church systems.

Again a loud voice, a sweeping command to ACT. The second sharp sickle of TRUE DOCTRINE, suddenly and swiftly, cut off the clusters of grapes – these symbolize the fruitage that the Churches show as being God’s supposed approval of their false teachings and practices. Many are good works, although earthly or worldly in nature. This should not surprise us, for Jesus and Paul both warned that it would be so.

Matthew 7:15-23:

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their FRUITS. Do men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth EVIL FRUIT. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit IS HEWN DOWN AND CAST INTO THE FIRE. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me

Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many WONDERFUL WORKS? And then I will profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU, depart from me, YOU THAT WORK INIQUITY.”

II Corinthians 11:13-15:

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.”

In John 15 we have presented to us that Jesus is the TRUE VINE, and that husbandmen is the heavenly FATHER and the branches are the TRUE CHURCH. In Revelation 14:18-20 we are shown the COUNTERFEIT VINE, whose father is the devil. The counterfeit vine has it's many branches or denominations with all their various good works, earthly helps for humans, but all are used to support their false anti-Christ teachings and practices – wolves in sheep clothing.

Her grapes are fully ripe

Yes, this is still a future event. This denotes a fulness of GUILT, for Churchianity's continued refusal to accept the truth concerning God's and Jesus' great love and pity for ALL MANKIND! It is also for their continued rejection and persecution of the truth and the truth people. We reference Revelation 18:4, 5:

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying: Come out of her my people, that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

Vs. 19

And the angel (Message) thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

The waiting fifth Message from vs. 17, begins to ACT. As already interpreted, this final Message of truth, elsewhere identified as the 7 Last Plagues (Revelation 15:1, 7, 8; 16:1-21), will be forced upon the so-called Christian world, resulting in the complete EXPOSURE of all their deceptions and falsehoods. It is the Lord God Almighty who can and will “set the stage” for these closing events.

Vs. 20

And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horses bridles (bits), by the space of a thousand six hundred furlongs.

The winepress is a place, it represents the condition of the nominal Churches being helpless to escape the coming pressing, treading down by the symbolic horses and their riders. It will not be grape juice that comes forth, rather

it will be blood – the life – goes out from all the anti-Christ systems, the mother harlot and her daughters. Elsewhere they are depicted as being “cast alive into the lake of fire” Revelation 19:20.

Trodden outside the city

The city is Babylon the great, Churchianity. This demonstrates that it is those who are outside of the nominal Churches sphere of influence – those who had refused to receive their mark, that will be given the privilege with Jesus and all the Saints (Psalm 149:5-9), in overseeing their final destruction.

Even unto the horses bridles (bits)

The Sinatic mss. Has “horses” plural. In Revelation 19:11-16:

“And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire and on his head were many crowns and he had a name written that no man knew but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture DIPPED IN BLOOD, and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations and he shall rule them with a rod of iron and he TREADETH THE WINEPRESS OF THE FIERCENESS AND WRATH OF ALMIGHTY GOD. And he has on his vesture and on his thigh a name written King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

We will only consider a few points from these related verses. A white horse symbolizes pure truth, doctrine. He that sat upon this first horse is King Jesus. He is set to execute God’s judgements.

The expressions “His vesture dipped in blood” and “he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God”, both connect with our Chapter 14:20. That there are “armies in heaven on white horses” makes a further connection that it is the completed Church, the 144,000 who will work with Jesus their Head in this judgement work. We note that there are “armies” plural. The thought is that the vast majority of the Saints are risen and united with Jesus in earth’s atmosphere, and the Feet Members, sealed in their foreheads but still in the flesh to be used to deliver the final Truth messages - that like a “sword out of his mouth”, will lead to the final collapse of Babylon the great.

Blood came up to the horses bridles (bits), represents that it is a complete judgement / destruction, for the blood could not come up any higher on the horses.

The end result is that the nominally Christian “bundled Tares”, will be burned, that is, they will realize that they were not really spirit-begotten Children of God, and they do not have a place in heaven, so they will become part of the “Lord’s Great Army” (Joel 2:1-11), part of the great “Sea” Class of Revelation 18:21, and will both abandon and destroy the anti-Christ systems. This was pictured in the French Revolution of 1789 – 1799.

By the space (distance) of a thousand six hundred furlongs.

The thought of this being an actual distance seems to be out of sync with the usual symbolic lessons. Rather 1,600 is 40 X 40. Forty represents a period of judgement. A number squared (like the grand Jubilee cycle), represents that something has reached its crescendo. Here in context, it is the ultimate climax of God’s judgement and destruction of all the nominal Christian religious systems that blasphemed His holy character and that of His Son, the Lamb of God as well as having persecuted His New Creation, The Christ Head and Body.

Why a “distance” or “space”? this is a common expression, when something “has gone the distance”, it implies it has finished it’s course, it is complete. The life blood of Babylon the great has gone the “distance”, it is dead.
End.

