

## **GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!**

### *REVELATION 14*

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#### Chapter 13: Background of Revelation 14

##### Verses 1-5, The Devil and The Beast

The beast rising out of the sea (Roman Empire) with ten horns

Seven emperors: Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian

Three weak emperors after Nero: Galba, Otho, and Vitellius

Blasphemous names: divine, god, son of god, the savior of the world (Nero coinage), lord

Description of the beast: Daniel 7: 1-7,

Lion, Babylon; Bear, Medes; Leopard, Persia; Fourth beast, Alexander the Great

Roman Empire contained ferocity greater than kingdoms before it

##### Verses 11-17, The Power of the Second Beast

The organization and administration of Caesar worship

The ease and challenge of Caesar worship/sin

The mark/certificate

##### Verse 18, The Mark of the Beast

The Nero redivivus legend or Nero resurrected (verse 3)

Nero as Anti-Christ

#### Revelation 14

##### Verse 1, Then I looked and there was the Lamb...

After dismal and frightening description of the beasts are Lamb and the Church

The Lamb and the Church stand above and beyond the beasts

Don't ever become so focused on the forces and destructive power of the beasts that we forget that they do not have the last word

##### The one hundred forty-four thousand (From Revelation 7: 4-5)

The perfect number of 144,000

Not exclusive but inclusive; not limiting but exhaustive

The Church as New Israel

Judah as tribe of Christ is listed first

Tribe of Dan is missing (Genesis 49:17; Judges 18: 30; I Kings 12: 29;

Jeremiah 8: 16, ancient prediction associated with anti-Christ)

The listing of Manasseh (Genesis 48)

##### Verses 2-5, Voice of God: Sound of many waters (Ezekiel 43: 2), thunder, and harpists

Unique voice: mighty and melodious; attention getting and comforting

##### Uniqueness of Song of the Redeemed

Experience of redemption and sacrifice behind it

True forgiveness and unparalleled love

Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Witness to power and truth of the word of God

Testimony of being kept by power of God through suffering

Fellowship of the saints

Character of Church

Undefined: kept themselves from impurities of the world  
 Living testimonies, lights of the world, salt of the earth  
 Speak the truth  
 No condemnation (Romans 8: 1)

#### Verses 6-11, Message of the Angel

##### The Angel with Eternal Gospel

Eternal Gospel as distinct from national constitutions, man made laws, individual conscience

Church must be careful about compromising biblical truth

Gospel carries both message of God's glory and God's judgment

Either we give glory to God or we reap God's judgment

##### The Angel of Judgment

Meaning of Babylon in minds of Ancient Jews

Babylon and twentieth-century holocaust

Babylon and African American slavery

Babylon and first century Church (Rome)

Babylon's demise is spoken of as completed fact

##### The Angel of Doom upon Apostasy

The judgment upon followers of the beasts of Revelation 13

In time of persecution, apostasy is one of deadliest sins

Eternal life or eternal suffering

While sinners suffer they see the reward of the righteous (Luke 16: 19-31)

#### Verses 12-13, Message to the Faithful

Hold on because "trouble don't last always"

Blessed death in the Lord

Oneness with Christ

Doing the Lord's will

Believing the Lord' word

Having the Lord's peace

Beholding the Lord's reward

The Lord Jesus on Calvary

Stephen in Acts 7

Paul in II Timothy 4: 6-8

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis

Their works follow them: The righteous leave a legacy

#### Verses 14-20, Only Two Options

Word of God always reminds us about our options

Deuteronomy 28 (Blessings and Curses) and 30: 19

Deliverance or Devastation

Joy or Judgment

Worship or Wrath