



2025 Focus: Committed to Executing the Word

James 1:22

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The Lamb and the 144,000

Revelation Chapter 14:7-13

Verse 7. This verse shows an angel of Verse 6 who preaches the everlasting Gospel, also exhorting all those on earth to fear God, not Satan, and give glory to God—worship God. These two verses are the proclamation of belief—God’s last call to the Gentiles to be saved. Fear God not Satan, nor the antichrist – the hour of judgement has come – the last moment to repent and believe God before God’s wrath is poured out.

Verses 8. Lack of response to the first angel’s message causes a second angel to pronounce this judgment: Babylon is fallen. This phrase, Babylon is fallen, refers to the entire worldwide political, economic, and religious Kingdom of the Antichrist. The original city of Babylon was the birth place of idolatry where the residents built the tower of Babel, a monument to rebelliousness and fake religion. Such idolatry was subsequently spread when God confounded man’s language and scattered them around the world—**Genesis 11:1-9**.

Wine of wrath of her fornication—this pictures Babylon causing the world to become intoxicated with her pleasures and enter an orgy of rebellion, hatred, and idolatry toward God. Fornication is spiritual prostitution to the Antichrist’s false system, which will fall for such iniquity.

Verse 9-13. The issues are now made clear, the alternatives unmistakable. "Worship me" cries the beast, or "be doomed." "Worship me" cries the Lamb or be damned. The proclamation is in two parts. The first describes the doom of those who defy the Beast. This doom is two-fold. Those who take this step can expect undiluted torment from an angry God—**Verses 10-11**. The message is urgent; it is proclaimed by an angel and is heard in a loud voice. It is short, it is blunt, it is plain, and it is one of the most unique proclamations in Scripture, says John Phillips. It depicts the horrors of hell with the fullness of detail rare indeed in the Bible. Make no mistake there will be no hope for those who worship the Beast, bow before his image or receive his mark. They can expect nothing but the wrath of God poured out upon them in undiluted strength. The days of grace and mercy are gone. Divine wrath is the settled, steady, merciless, graceless, and compassionless responses of a righteous God against sin. It is God stamping out sin once and for all.

Those who worship the beast can also expect undying torment from an angry God. The torment begins on earth—**Verse 11**. They find it impossible to rest for their days become one long horror of anguish and their nights become black nightmares of torment. And after that an awful eternity of woe. This reference is to the eternity of hell—**Matthew 3:12, 24-30, 36-43, 13:41-42, 25:41; Mark 9:48**. Torment is the ceaseless infliction of unbearable pain prescribed for all those who are loyal to Satan's leader—**Luke 16:23-24**.

Verse 12. In happy contrast with the doom of the Beast is the destiny of all those who defy the Beast. Two things are said of those as well. They will be resisted except for the 144,000. Those who defy the beast can anticipate death in a thousand different ways. But death is instantly transformed into God's blessings. This is where the believers' faith kicks in and reigns supreme.

"I'll make you suffer," screams the Beast. "You'll make us saints," reply the overcomers.

"I'll persecute you to the grave," roars the Beast. "You'll promote us to glory," reply the overcomers.

"I'll blast you," snarls the beast. "You'll bless us," reply the overcomers.

The Beast's rage against these noble martyrs will all be in vain. He will utterly fail at last. This Scripture proves that all true believers in Christ will never lose their faith regardless of the circumstances and affliction. The regenerate will continually endure, right to the end, in obedience to the truth, no matter what may come against them.

Verse 13. This verse is further encouragement to the believer. Contrast to the Antichrist who is promised punishment and torment, the believer who dies in the Lord is promised rest. The believer receives blessings when the Antichrist receives cursing. The believers' troubles will be over and the Antichrist's troubles will just be starting. The believers will be rewarded for their faithfulness. Their works will follow them. When God sees the believer, He will also see how they kept their faith. The true believer must end as he/she begins—[Ephesians 2:8](#); [2 Timothy 4:7-8](#).