

Chapter 14: Under Law

Foundation Scriptures

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

A. Perfection

1. The Original Plan.

Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

More Filtering

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

2. The Rod of Iron.

Mat 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Galatians 3:1-3 Amplified Bible (AMPC)

Gal 3:1 Amp O you poor and silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and senseless Galatians! Who has fascinated or bewitched or cast a spell over you, unto whom—right before your very eyes—Jesus Christ (the Messiah) was openly and graphically set forth and portrayed as crucified?

Gal 3:2 Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the [Holy] Spirit as the result of obeying the Law and doing its works, or was it by hearing [the message of the Gospel] and believing [it]? [Was it from observing a law of rituals or from a message of faith?]

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish and so senseless and so silly? Having begun [your new life spiritually] with the [Holy] Spirit, are you now reaching perfection [by dependence] on the flesh?

3. Firstfruits.

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty [and] four thousand**, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Rev 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto

God and to the Lamb. Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

B. Age of Law

1. Beginning of the end for those who reject God.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon is fallen**, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

New role for angels

Prior to this we have seen angels delivering news and messages and giving directions to other angels. But after the heavenlies have been purged, we see them in an enhanced role, actually preaching the Gospel and making prophecies.

2. Mark of the Beast.

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the **Lamb**:

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Note: The angel is preaching the Gospel, warning all men not to worship the beast and not to take the mark. Here is the ultimate example of being under law. Any man (which appears to include both the saved and the unsaved), who worships the beast and receives his mark will be cast into the lake of fire. Notice that if one can lose one's salvation by one's works, then one is **not** under Grace. The assumption is that, if during this time period one can lose one's salvation by works, it is reasonable that one can gain one's salvation by works. For example, Abraham's willingness (i.e., faith) to sacrifice Isaac was counted unto him as righteousness.

Rev 14:12 **Here is the patience of the saints:** here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

3. Salvation by Works.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and **their works do follow them.**

Note: In the context of this chapter with its emphasis on the tens of thousands killed by the forces of the anti-Christ, it is reasonable to assume that the expression "die in the Lord" refers to martyrdom, specifically to those who die because they would not worship the beast nor take his mark. Since all men have been warned and not just believers, it appears that unbelievers, probably primarily Jews, will refuse to take the mark. These will be killed and their works will follow them. As we see in Rev 20:4, their works do follow them; and they are martyrs; and they live with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received

[his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

C. Jewish genocide in Israel

1. Martyrdom for Jews and others who refuse the mark.

Rev 14:14 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.

Rev 14:15 And another angel 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 is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 And **he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle** on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

2. Mass annihilation of the remaining Jews who took the mark.

Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy **sharp sickle**, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

Rev 14:19 And the **angel 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.

Rev 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs (*200 miles*).

3. Specific intervals of major filtering.

Under the Seals, the world (i.e., secular people) will choose to be believers or unbelievers.

Under the Trumpets, the Jews and others will choose to be Scripturally observant or not.

Under the Third Woe in Chapter 13, saints will choose natural war by carnal weapons which lead to physical death; or, spiritual war through faith and patience which leads to the Rapture.

Under the Third Woe, here in Chapter 14, Jews and others will choose martyrdom for the Lamb or genocidal death.

In Chapters 15-19, we will see the wrath of God on those who serve the anti-Christ and have taken the mark of the beast.