

PREFACE

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

INTRODUCTION

1. There is a divine outline to the book — John is told, **1.19** *Write the **things which you have seen**, and the **things which are**, and the **things which will take place after this**.*
 1. CH 1: *the things that John saw* — the reality of the **PERSON** of **JESUS** — Resurrected/in Power
 2. CH 2-3: *the things that were* — at the time John was writing... the **PEOPLE** of **JESUS** — 7 Churches
 3. CH 4–22: *the things which will take place...* the **PROGRAM** of **JESUS**
 1. CH 4/5: The Scene is in HEAVEN
 2. CH 6-19: HEAVEN/EARTH... we see the Great Tribulation
 3. Why the tribulation? — **WAKE** Up a Nation — **SHAKE** Up a Ppl
2. This morning, we're in chapter 14... now ch14 comes after ch13
 1. Important to remember b/c in ch13 the beast is ferociously victorious against all who oppose him.
 1. **Revelation 13.3** *The whole world ... gave allegiance to the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. "Who is as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?"*
 2. **7** *And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.*
 2. But, in CH14 John is taken the very end of the Tribulation, right before the millennium.
 1. John is given a vision of Jesus — identified as the Lamb
 2. Showing us that the beast/dragon/anti-christ is not the ultimate victor, but that JESUS is.
 3. **(PP)** I love what Pastor Skip Heitzig says of this: *Revelation chapter 14 is like a breath of fresh air. After the horrors that are described in the preceding chapters and before the terrors that follow it, John sees a vision of the Lamb of God enjoying the company of His redeemed people. Here we learn that the Lord's grace and mercy do not in any way conflict with His holiness and judgment. And we remember that the time for getting right with God is now.*
3. This morning, in CH14 we'll see in the midst of the attacks against the ppl of God that there are 3 certainties:
 1. We'll see the surety of the **SALVATION** of God displayed through His 144,000 witnesses (v1-5)
 2. We'll see the surety of the **GOSPEL** of God proclaimed through 3 Angels (v6-13)
 3. We'll see the surety of the **JUDGEMENT** of God through the Son of Man & 3 Angels (v14-20)

SALVATION

1 *Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. 3 This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. 5 They have told no lies; they are without blame.*

1. John sees
 1. The Lamb standing on Mt Zion
 2. The 144k are with Him & the 144k had the name of the Lamb & Father written on their foreheads
2. John hears
 1. Thunderous sound from heaven
 2. Great choir singing a new song b4 the throne, 4 living beings, 24 elders
 3. This song was known solely by the 144k (redeemed ones)
 1. Kept themselves pure
 2. Followed the Lamb where He went
 3. They were purchased from among the ppl of the earth as a special offering
 4. They told no lies
 5. They are without blame.
3. Let me ask/answer, to the best of my ability, a couple of questions to better understand what is going on here:
 1. A lot is said here of these 144k, so, my 1st question centers around them — Who are they & what's the significance of them here?
 2. 2nd Question — What does this all mean?
4. We were 1st introduced to this group of 144k in Revelation 7
 1. 12k Jews from each of the 12 Tribes of Israel
 2. Sealed — meaning they have divine protection from God — from all the judgments we've seen in Revelation that come from God & from the attacks of the enemy.
 3. This description that we're given is insightful
 1. This seal that they have on their foreheads predates the 666 that enemy counterfeits in Rev 13
 2. Their walk/talk were one.
 3. They are preaching a message of repentance & living lives of purity.
5. What does all this mean?
 1. Well, I like what one author says regarding what John sees here... John sees the Lamb (Jesus) standing with the 144k, sealed w/ His name & the name of His Father on their foreheads... where are they?
 2. They are standing on Mt. Zion
 1. The author said that commentators/teachers part ways like the Red Sea as to what this means.
 1. In Psalm 48, Jerusalem, the city of the Lord, is also called Mt. Zion.
 2. In Hebrews 12, reference is made to the heavenly Jerusalem & the heavenly Mt. Zion.
 2. So which Mount Zion is being referred to here in verse 1?
 1. Some see this as heavenly Zion, w/ the redeemed standing w/ Jesus before the Father.
 2. Others see this as the Mount Zion on earth, and they describe this as a preview of the scene when Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation.
 3. Whichever it is... here's the point... the enemy is not victorious... but, the LAMB is!
6. You know it may be true that we are not at the end of the world, but we are living in a time... we're living in a world very near the end...

1. We're living in a time when good is called evil and evil is called good
2. We're living in a time that fits the description of what we read in Scripture ... a world near the end
3. **(PP)** 2 Timothy 3.1–5 **1** *You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!*
7. This describes our time... but, chapter 13 — so much darker than the days were are in now, — it's horrific — it's like the WHOLE WORLD is worshipping Satan ... the beast is given the authority & power to speak blasphemy against God & put to death any/all who oppose Him.
 1. Guzik: *So it is fair to ask, "Is the beast completely victorious over all God's people?" The presence of the 144,000 on Mount Zion with the Lamb emphatically says "no."*
 2. So, what do we see in Revelation 14? — the LAMB victorious — worshipped by the 144k
 3. This is who God is — this is something we have CONFIDENCE in... the salvation of God!
 4. **Isaiah 59.1** *Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.*
 5. **Jeremiah 32.17** *O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!*
8. The SALVATION of GOD is a SURETY!
 1. You can bank on it... so, then how should our lives look? ... well like the 144k
 1. Kept themselves pure
 2. Followed the Lamb where He went
 3. They were purchased from among the ppl of the earth as a special offering
 4. They told no lies
 5. They are without blame.
 2. I love this about their relationship with God — **3** *This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.*
 3. The intimacy that comes in walking with God in purity is as Charles Spurgeon said, *"To be rapt in praise to God is the highest state of the soul... When you bow in adoration, you are at your very highest."*
9. The SALVATION of GOD is a SURETY! So in our time & lives... walk with God... don't lose sight of the BIG PICTURE... God is truly MIGHTY to SAVE & He will.

THE GOSPEL

6 *And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal Good News to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. 7 "Fear God," he shouted. "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water."*

1. Imagine the temperature of the culture at this time...
 1. Everyone is fearful & under the thumb the beast...
 2. He's seemingly ruling/reigning in authority & there is no authority that can rise against him...
 3. So, what does God do?
 1. He sends an angel... Not commonplace for us, but in this time
 2. God is seemingly using angels more & more visibly frequently to carry out His will in this time
 4. **(PP)** *Today, the Church is responsible for the proclamation of the gospel. But that will change after the Rapture. Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14 NKJV). Because the Church will be in heaven, God will use the 144,000 Jews, the two witnesses, and even an angel to spread his message. He will go to great lengths to give the world one last chance to be saved.*
2. There will be 2 choices
 1. Fear the Beast & follow him
 2. Fear God — not afraid of — that's the beast's approach, but to fear God — have a holy respect for Him, believe/ know that He exists, He's the Creator, & He will be the judge... not the enemy...

8 *Then another angel followed him through the sky, shouting, "Babylon is fallen—that great city is fallen—because she made all the nations of the world drink the wine of her passionate immorality."*

1. Now, as we continue through the book of Revelation we'll learn more about Babylon & it's fall (CH18)
 1. There is a lot of history related to Babylon.
 2. In the OT, Babylon was the name of the city of an evil empire — world center for idol worship.
 3. The Babylonians took God's ppl into captivity.
2. Throughout the book of Revelation, ultimately Babylon is the civilization, the culture, the lifestyle that is under the seduction of the enemy — captivating the hearts of the ppl — worship + commercialism/money + sexual immorality.
 1. In Revelation, there is religious & commercial Babylon
 2. Babylon — the center of power & prestige — in its greatest might against God
 3. As it says here in v8 — it's seen as a *that great city* —
3. And a 2nd angel comes to declare — Babylon is fallen & declares it is ultimately powerless against God.
4. Anything one puts their trust in, other than JESUS... no matter how GREAT it might seem... pales in comparison to the might & power of God.

9 *Then a third angel followed them, shouting, "Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand **10** must drink the wine of God's anger. It has been poured full strength into God's cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. **11** The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the beast and his statue and have accepted the mark of his name."*

1. The 1st angel declares: **7** *"Fear God," "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water."*

2. The 2nd angel declares: **8** *“Babylon is fallen...”*
3. Here’s what we’re hearing from the angels:
 1. God is GOOD — He is the CREATOR, He is in CONTROL... Fear Him, not afraid of Him, but relational respect, awe, love, surrender — come to Him — He is the rightful judge — not the Beast.
 2. The enemy — in all his prestige, power, might — Babylon — is fallen
4. This 3rd angel announces if anyone worships the beast & takes his mark, they have sealed their fate.
5. There will be a time... there is a line to cross, a point of no return — judgment will come.
 1. Do you see in v**10**, that he describes it as drinking the wine of God’s anger?
 2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus willingly accepted *the cup of suffering* for our forgiveness of sin.
 3. Everyone who refuses Jesus & chooses to follow the beast will receive God’s cup of righteous anger.
6. Does the Bible teach that after life, we simply cease to exist, or that God will universally forgive/save all... or does the Bible teach there is a literal & eternal place of torment? — this passage is very clear... v**11**
7. **(PP)** *In Matthew 25:41, Jesus declares that hell was created for the devil and his fallen angels, and not for people. But if you slap away the hand of God and reject His gift of forgiveness, then you will, of your own choosing, follow the devil and his fallen angels right into hell and into the lake of fire.*
 1. God sends these 3 angels to proclaim — God is Good, the enemy is not & will fall, those follow him, follow him to his end.
 2. So what’s the call to the ppl to whom John was writing to in the 1st century, our 21st century, & to those that will be living during this time? Look at v**12**...

12 *This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!”*

1. Stick & Stay with Jesus
2. You know if I could recommend a good & simple resource — LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE
 1. **(PP)** *This news about God’s ultimate triumph should encourage God’s people to remain faithful through every trial & persecution. They can do this. God promises, by trusting in Jesus & obeying the commands found in His Word. The secret to enduring, therefore is trust & obedience. Trust God to give the patience to endure even the small trials you face daily, obey Him even when obedience is unattractive or dangerous.*
 2. **(PP)** *While it is true that money, fame, and belongings can’t be taken with us from this life, God’s people can produce fruit that survives even death. God will remember our love, kindness, & faithfulness, & those who accept Christ through our witness will join us in the new earth. Be sure that your values are in line with God’s values, & decide today to produce fruit that lasts forever.*
3. You see, this is the encouragement that we see so far in this chapter:
 1. the **SALVATION** of God is a SURE thing
 1. Look at His 144k witnesses
 2. Walk with God... don’t lose sight of the BIG PICTURE... God is truly MIGHTY to SAVE & He will.
 2. the **GOSPEL** of God is a SURE thing — what is that gospel being preached here?

1. God is Good, the enemy is not & will fall, those follow him, follow him to his eternal end
2. But those who stick & stay with Jesus — their eternal end **13** *they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!*”
3. Now, in the last few verses of this chapter let’s look at this next SURE thing — **Judgment** of God.

JUDGEMENT

14 *Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like the Son of Man. He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15* *Then another angel came from the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, “Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe.” 16* *So the one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested. 17* *After that, another angel came from the Temple in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. 18* *Then another angel, who had power to destroy with fire, came from the altar. He shouted to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sickle now to gather the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for they are ripe for judgment.” 19* *So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God’s wrath. 20* *The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream about 180 miles long and as high as a horse’s bridle.*

1. John sees a white cloud — White — purity, glory, victory — Cloud — picturesque of the presence of God
2. *Someone like the Son of Man* — most agree — Jesus, crowned & sickle in his hand — instrument of judgment.
 1. By now, I hope you are picking up on the theme of this chapter
 2. Even in the midst of all that is happening with the BEAST ravaging the world
 1. John is sharing the surety that JESUS is enthroned...
 2. That His judgment, not the judgment of the Beast... is the judgment that stands.
3. There are 3 angels spoken of here
 1. The 1st 3 angels in this chapter were proclaiming/heralding the GOSPEL of God.
 2. These 3 angels preparing/harvesting for the JUDGEMENT of God — a grain harvest & a grape harvest
4. In v**15** the angel says, *“Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe.”*
 1. It’s interesting the word for ripe in the GK language — “totally ripe, almost rotten, withered”...
 2. Meaning, God has mercifully withheld His judgment until the time is over-ripe for judgment...
5. What we read here, reminds us of Jesus’ explanation of His parable of the wheat/tares in MT13.
6. **(PP)** *Jesus said at the end of the age, the Son of Man will send forth His angels to the earth to gather the tares and to cast them into the fire of torment and suffering. Revelation 14 gives us a vivid picture of that event.*
7. The author goes on to explain this grape harvest in such a helpful way:
 1. **(PP)** *God’s wrath and judgment are likened to a great winepress. Symbolically, the angels will gather the grapes of wrath, or the unsaved, and cast them into God’s great winepress of judgment. In the first century, a winepress consisted of two vats—one large vat and another smaller vat below it.*
 2. **(PP)** *The gathered grapes were cast into the upper vat, where they were trampled underfoot. During this process, the juice from those trampled grapes would flow down to the lower vat. That word picture is being used here to describe the judgment of the Lord in the final days of the tribulation, and instead of juice flowing, the winepress of God’s wrath will be filled with the blood of the unsaved.*

8. And we see this very specific description of blood of 180 miles long & as high as a horse's bridle...
 1. Interestingly, that is the approximate distance from the area known as Armageddon in the northern part of Israel, to the southern portion of the country.
 2. This scene pictures God's final judgment at Armageddon
9. God's JUDGEMENT... is a SURE thing!

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

1. Now as we wrap this up, this morning...
 1. Remember where we are in the book of Revelation...
 2. The AntiChrist is seemingly ravishing, ruling, & reigning ruthlessly.
2. John, in Ch14 is gives a picture of the
 1. the **SALVATION** of God as a SURE thing
 1. Look at His 144k witnesses
 2. Walk with God... don't lose sight of the BIG PICTURE... God is truly MIGHTY to SAVE & He will.
 2. the **GOSPEL** of God as a SURE thing
 1. God is Good, the enemy is not & will fall, those follow him, follow him to his eternal end
 2. But those who stick & stay with Jesus — their eternal end **13** *they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!*"
 3. the **JUDGMENT** of God as a sure thing, that is surely coming! // not in opposition to His Mercy or Love.
3. I read this week about a Christian theologian from Croatia, who could't reconcile a God of love w/ judgment like we read of this morning... let me read something to you from him:
 1. **(PP)** *My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry.*
 2. **(PP)** *Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandfatherly fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them?*
 3. **(PP)** *Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love.— [Miroslav Volf, Free of Charge](#) (Zondervan, 2006), pp. 138-139*
4. It's not justice that brings a person to heaven... it's God's Mercy!
5. Justice is God's judgment, but thank God for Mercy & Justice!