

Let us review what we have covered so far to get an idea of the flow of the book to this point. Chapter one introduced Jesus, the churches, and their angels. Chapters two and three were the letters from Jesus to the seven churches. Three letters included praise for what they were doing and warnings about compromise with the world. Two were about to die if they did not change. Two had no faults mentioned. Chapters 4 and 5 included a heavenly throne room scene where Jesus as the Lamb of God took the scroll with seven seals that are opened in chapter 6, an outline of the way God was dealing with the world.

In chapter 7 the 144,000 are sealed and through chapters 8-9 the six trumpet plagues are sent out damaging portions of the earth and bringing torment to those not sealed by God. In chapter 10 John is given the little scroll and is commissioned to give the rest of the revelation. In chapter 11 the two witnesses declare the truth, call down plagues, and there is persecution. They are killed but they rise after three days. The last half of chapter 11 is the seventh trumpet and a declaration that Christ has taken His great power and begun to reign. In chapters 12 and first half of 13 we read of the Antichrist and persecution of believers, but the saints are carried to a place of refuge. The last half of chapter 13 we were introduced to the false prophet and told of the mark of the beast. Now in this chapter we will read of the 144,000 surrounding Jesus on Mount Zion and of the harvest of the firstfruits followed by the harvest of those to be trodden in the winepress. Chapters 15 and 16 will tell of the vials of wrath poured out upon the earth.

We should note that 7:9-17, 11:15-19, and these verses in chapter 14 each sound like a wrap, like it is finished, and yet more is written. This may mean that we are seeing what took place previously from different angles. It could mean there is a spiritual victory and what follows is the cleaning up. Or it could mean the church is called home represented by Christ reigning as king, which is the place of refuge for the 144,000 with Jesus on Mount Zion. Or each could be a forward look to the conclusion to encourage the readers to persevere.

The first readers were seeing this played out in an intermediate fulfillment under emperor Domitian. They would be encouraged by what we are about to read. It reminds us of the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). They could relate to Lazarus, and the inability to earn money to feed their families that we saw in the previous chapter because they refused to worship the Roman gods (13:17ⁱ). But they are about to hear why it is important to persevere to the end.

¹ *Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.* Revelation 14:1 *I looked and behold* - announces a new section in Revelation. The first five verses are about the song of the redeemed. All believers are sealed (Ephesians 1:13,14ⁱⁱ; Revelation 3:12ⁱⁱⁱ). We stand with the Lamb on the heavenly Mount Zion (Hebrews 12:22^{iv}; Galatians 4:26^v). That is quite a contrast to the beast who stands on the sand of sea. Believers in the first couple of centuries called the Mount of Olives the new Mount Zion for they believed that Jesus died, was buried, and rose there. Indeed, His death, burial, and resurrection made it possible for us to stand with Him on the heavenly Mount Zion. Are these a subset of believers such as martyred Jews during the tribulation? Some people interpret verses 4 and 5 that way. My understanding is that in the same manner that all who follow the beast get his seal, so all believers in Christ are sealed by the

Lamb. I take the number of 144,000 to be symbolic of all believers (12x12x1000). These five verses are meant to encourage the reader. In 12:17^{vi} the beast stood on the sand, but here the Lamb stands on Mount Zion. It is a far superior position for the battle that lay ahead. After reading about the Antichrist being victorious over the saints from the earth (13:7^{vii}), we need to read where we end up.

What is the Lamb's and the Father's name on our foreheads? Are we all going to get a tattoo? Some slaves in that day did get a forehead tattoo of their owner's name. But when we go back to the original use in Exodus, we find that being marked on our hand and forehead was symbolic of our behavior. When the Jews celebrated Passover, it was said to be a sign on their hand and forehead (Exodus 13:9^{viii}). When they gave the first born of their flocks to the Lord it was also a sign on their hand and forehead (Exodus 13:16^{ix}). The way the word forehead is used in prophetic passages is similar to the way we refer to the face. "I can see it written all over your face." It is not a tattoo but the glow of one's countenance (Ecclesiastes 8:1^x). And remember that a name in Hebrew represents the character. Sometimes when I meet someone, I can see on their face that they are a follower of Jesus. When we stand with the Lamb on heavenly Mount Zion, the characteristics of the Lamb and the Father will be on our faces. It is similar to what John wrote in his first letter. *² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.* 1 John 3:2

As mentioned earlier this is similar to the preview of Jesus' victory that we saw at the end of chapter 7 and 11. I see it as a reminder of the reward for enduring. We are reading about the most extreme conditions the world has ever faced (Matthew 24:21^{xi}), but then we get a glimpse of why we keep on keeping on. We know where we are headed. The end of the book is interspersed throughout Revelation so that we do not become discouraged with what we are reading.

Both Paul and Peter quote Isaiah 28:16^{xii} regarding Jesus as the stone God has placed on Zion. I think this is a clear allusion to the Daniel 2 vision. King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream. He asked his wise men to tell him the dream and the interpretation or be torn to pieces. When Daniel heard about the order, he went to prayer with his friends and in a night vision he saw the king's dream. There was a frightening image of a man with a gold head, silver chest, bronze thighs, iron legs, and feet of iron and clay. Each part represented the kingdoms to follow Babylon, which was the head. The iron represented Rome, the empire under which the recipients of Revelation were suffering persecution. A stone was cut out of a great mountain, and it struck the image in the feet and the image crumbled and blew away. **The stone became a mountain that filled the earth (Daniel 2:44,45^{xiii}). Paul and Peter declare that stone is Jesus (Romans 9:33^{xiv}; 1 Peter 2:6^{xv}).** For the recipients of the letter, this first verse would speak to them that though they are martyred, they will be with Jesus when he ends the kingdoms of man, and the kingdom of God fills the earth. The message has been the same for all who suffer under the antichrist nations of this world. Endure this fallen world and you will go to your reward.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:6^{xvi} that we are presently seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. That means that we are with the Lamb on Mount Zion even now. When He stands, it is because He is returning to judge the earth. We will stand with Him and join Him on white horses as He slays His enemies according to chapter 19 (19:13-16^{xvii}).

² *And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,*
³ *and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.* Revelation 14:2,3 This is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prediction.

¹⁰ *And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.* Isaiah 35:10 This makes it clear that 144,000 is a symbolic number of all of the redeemed. ESV uses the word redeemed at the end of verse three, but the Greek word is more commonly translated as purchased. We were purchased out of the earth by the blood of Jesus (5:9^{xviii}). That was the ransom that He paid to see us set free from slavery to sin. The angels in heaven cannot sing this song for they never fell, and the angels who did fall are not redeemable. The unsaved cannot sing it for they never experienced redemption. But we will sing it with great joy and gratitude for we were purchased by the most precious, sinless blood of Jesus. We are forgiven. It should be the new song of the church throughout the ages for even now we have come to Mount Zion (Hebrews 12:22^{iv}), but the song will crescendo when we are complete, all the saints together as one (Hebrews 11:40^{xix}).

They have come to Mount Zion on eagle's wings. Could it be that this is their place of refuge from the beast for 1260 days, the last half of the final seven years when the vials of wrath are poured out. At the end of that time, they will follow Jesus to the battle of Armageddon (19:11-16^{xx}; Psalm 2:6-9^{xxi}; Jude 14,15^{xxii}). They will not need to fight, for the battle belongs to the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:15^{xxiii}).

The description of the sound of their singing is like that of Jesus' voice in chapter 1 verse 15^{xxiv}. When God spoke to Jesus in an audible voice in the Gospels, some said it thundered (John 12:29^{xxv}). Thunder and harpists sound like an oxymoron, but perhaps he is saying melodic low bass tones. It is the song of the redeemed. The song of the redeemed is "a voice." They sing as one, and they sound like Jesus because they follow and listen to Him. **No longer weak and persecuted, together at last they ROAR!**

With their thundering voices they sing a new song. In Scripture, new songs were sung when hearts were overflowing with the goodness of God (Psalm 33:3^{xxvi}). The people of God are in heaven with Jesus. We know that because verse 2 tells us John heard the "voice from heaven." What the Antichrist sees as a victory in eliminating the followers of Jesus on earth, we will see as a great victory for us. Like our Savior, we lay down our lives and find life in doing so (Matthew 16:25^{xxvii}). We will realize the victory in the completion of the bride and that we made it home by the grace of God.

⁴ *It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.* Revelation 14:4,5 Four things are said of the 144,000. They are virgins. In the spiritual sense, "virgins" means free of idolatry, faithful to the Lord (2 Corinthians 11:2^{xxviii}). Both Old Testament and New Testament use this figurative language. Israel was often accused of whoring after other gods, meaning being idolatrous (Jeremiah 3:2,3^{xxix}; Hosea 4:12^{xxx}). Unfaithful even in our language can imply either a sexual connotation or any lack of consistency to one's duties or promises. This expression is a contrast with the harlot Babylon in chapter 18 and those who are committed to her idols.

To be a virgin in this spiritual apocalyptic language is to be faithfully waiting for Christ to return. Jesus used the expression in Matthew 25 in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1^{xxxvi}). *Satake notes that in the only other places in the text where saints surround Christ (7:9^{xxxvii}, 17^{xxxviii}; 19:8-9^{xxxix}), it is always the whole redeemed community that does so.*^{xxxv} But we know for sure that is the correct interpretation because verse 8^{xxxvi} tells us that sexual immorality is drinking of the wine of Babylon's passion. That is to live for the things of this world, which is to side with the antichrist forces.

To follow the Lamb is to be a disciple of Jesus. ²⁶ *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.* John 12:26 That begs the question, are you following Him wherever He leads? Are you with Him? Is your life dedicated to serving Him? If you desire the honor that comes from God alone, that is what we must do. That is the same concept as a spiritual virgin, for the idolatry of this world's things has been put out of our lives. Jesus said in Matthew 10:38 ³⁸ *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* To follow the Lamb wherever He goes then means that *Like the sacrificial Lamb, they offer their lives up in sacrifice to God (cf. Romans. 12:1^{xxxvii}). Not only do they follow Jesus' teaching and identify with his redemptive work, but they also imitate his faithfulness in the midst of suffering and persecution.*^{xxxviii} Are you a spiritual virgin, or are you intimate with the world? We should ask ourselves each day if we are living solely for this world and what it offers, or living to glorify our Savior.

Firstfruits - the Greek word is an offering to God. Several verses apply the term to all believers who have given themselves to the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:13^{xxxix}; James 1:18^{xl}). The Old Testament uses firstfruits in the same way referring to faithful Israel. The idea of reaping people like a harvest comes from Joel 4:13^{xli}. But the Joel passage is a reaping for judgment like we will see in verses 17-20 of this chapter. However, before those verses there is an earlier harvest in verses 14-16. That would be a harvest of firstfruits unto the Lord referred to as the redeemed or purchased in verse 4. Jesus used the word "harvest" in that sense in John 4:35-38^{xlii}. The author of Hebrews uses the term firstborn which is the firstfruits describing us with Jesus on Mount Zion. Hebrews 12:22-23 ²² *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,* We are purchased for God and the Lamb. We will all be in one harvest or the other (Matthew 13:30^{xliii}, 39-42^{xliv}). There are no other groups.

"In their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless." These pure ones speak truth that Babylon denies: Jesus is Lord! We are sinners. Only Jesus offers salvation! The truth of God and what He has done for us is found in the Bible. We do not compromise our speech to fit in with the world. That is why the world hates us, not because we are obnoxious, or rude, or insurrectionists, but because we speak the truth (John 15:18,19^{xlv}). They hate us because we warn them that they have set their hearts on a lie.

And because we have the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21^{xlvi}) we are blameless (Jude 24^{xlvii}). We are certainly not perfect, but our sins are covered and we are being sanctified. God sees us clothed in Christ and calls us perfected (Hebrews 10:14^{xlviii}). All of these expressions are applied to all redeemed believers in other Scripture passages. This also makes me wonder if there is a purification of the church because of the difficulty of those days. Certainly, those who are Christians because it is

cultural or tradition or for the false idea that it will make life easier will have fallen away. In fact, 2 Thessalonians 2:3^{xlix} tells us that there will be apostasy that comes first. ESV translates it as rebellion and KJV as “a great falling away.” We see it happening in many churches already. They preach something completely contrary to Scripture, such as coming to Christ will make you rich and happy. Others preach a compromise with sin saying God loves us and understands and allows our passions. The doctrines of demons lead people away from genuine faith in what Jesus has done for us. It puts self first and Jesus as genie in the sky who gives us whatever we desire. It is going to be so prominent that when someone uses the term Christian, the world will think of those who believe the false teaching. Meanwhile true followers of Christ will be labeled as dangerous fanatics. But in God’s eyes we are faithful followers of Jesus who proclaim the truth, and are blameless, for we are clothed in Christ (Romans 13:14^l; Revelation 7:13,14^{li}).

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.

Revelation 14:6 If the rapture has taken place at any point up to this time and the people on Zion with Jesus are those coming out of the tribulation that we read about in chapter seven (7:14^{lii}), then who are these to whom the angel is proclaiming the gospel? Will there still be those on the earth who have not taken the mark of the beast? Either God is making their judgment clear so that they can never say that they did not know, or there are still those who during the wrath being poured out will realize their guilt and turn to Christ like the thief on the cross (Luke 23:40-42^{liii}). While we will read that those who remain curse God to the end, there must be some who hear the angel and repent. Why would an angel need to proclaim the gospel if we were still on the earth? But since we are with God on Mount Zion, there may be some who will still be saved.

God does not want any to perish (2 Peter 3:9^{liv}). The pouring out of wrath that we will read about in chapter 16 is so all inclusive and destructive that even the hardest will have to think twice. God will use any means to bring us to repentance. And yet there will still be most of those who remain who are so hardened that they curse God instead (16:11^{lv}). If the goodness of God will not bring them to repentance (Romans 2:4^{lvi}), He will bring judgment to open their eyes. That is why I believe that those in hell would never want to be in heaven despite the constant agony where the worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:47,48^{lvii}).

God has revealed to John a stark contrast that is meant to encourage those suffering at the end of the first century. You can live for this world and be separated from God, or you can accept the suffering that the world inflicts on us because of our love for Jesus and join Him on Mount Zion where at His right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11^{lviii}). The message applies to every generation and will certainly be the call during the great tribulation. Man’s kingdoms will fall. God’s kingdom is forever! The Lamb always wins!

Questions: 1 Review chapter 1 through 13. 2 In verse one where are the saints and with whom? 3 What is the idea of forehead in Scripture? 4 How does this relate to Daniel 2? 5 Where do we see the idea of verses 2 and 3 in the Old Testament? 6 Who do the singers sound like? 7 Why are they the only ones that can sing it? 8 Go over the descriptions of them in verses 4 and 5. 9 What must happen before Jesus returns? 10 Why does the angel proclaim the gospel?

ⁱ Revelation 13:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

ⁱⁱ Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

ⁱⁱⁱ Revelation 3:12 (ESV)

¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

^{iv} Hebrews 12:22 (ESV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

^v Galatians 4:26 (ESV)

²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

^{vi} Revelation 12:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

^{vii} Revelation 13:7 (ESV)

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

^{viii} Exodus 13:9 (ESV)

⁹ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

^{ix} Exodus 13:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”

^x Ecclesiastes 8:1 (ESV)

¹ Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man’s wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.

^{xi} Matthew 24:21 (ESV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

^{xii} Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

^{xiii} Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

^{xiv} Romans 9:33 (ESV)

³³ as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

^{xv} 1 Peter 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

^{xvi} Ephesians 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

^{xvii} Revelation 19:13-16 (ESV)

¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread

the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

^{xviii} **Revelation 5:9 (ESV)**

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

^{xix} **Hebrews 11:40 (ESV)**

⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

^{xx} **Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)**

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

^{xxi} **Psalms 2:6-9 (ESV)**

⁶ “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

^{xxii} **Jude 1:14-15 (ESV)**

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

^{xxiii} **2 Chronicles 20:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s.

^{xxiv} **Revelation 1:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

^{xxv} **John 12:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

^{xxvi} **Psalms 33:3 (ESV)**

³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

^{xxvii} **Matthew 16:25 (ESV)**

²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

^{xxviii} **2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)**

² For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

^{xxix} **Jeremiah 3:2-3 (ESV)**

² Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been ravished? By the waysides you have sat awaiting lovers like an Arab in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom.

³ Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed.

^{xxx} **Hosea 4:12 (ESV)**

¹² My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.

^{xxxi} **Matthew 25:1 (ESV)**

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

^{xxxii} **Revelation 7:9 (ESV)**

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

^{xxxiii} **Revelation 7:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

^{xxxiv} **Revelation 19:8-9 (ESV)**

⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of

the saints.⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

^{xxxv} G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 739

^{xxxvi} **Revelation 14:8 (ESV)**

⁸ Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

^{xxxvii} **Romans 12:1 (ESV)**

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

^{xxxviii} G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 741

^{xxxix} **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)**

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

^{xl} **James 1:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

^{xli} **Joel 3:13 (ESV)**

¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

^{xlii} **John 4:35-38 (ESV)**

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'

³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

^{xliii} **Matthew 13:30 (ESV)**

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

^{xliv} **Matthew 13:39-42 (ESV)**

³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

^{xlv} **John 15:18-19 (ESV)**

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

^{xlvi} **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{xlvii} **Jude 1:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

^{xlviii} **Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

^{xlix} **2 Thessalonians 2:3 (ESV)**

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

^l **Romans 13:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

^{li} **Revelation 7:13-14 (ESV)**

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

lii **Revelation 7:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

liii **2 Thessalonians 2:3 (ESV)**

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

liv **Peter 3:9 (ESV)**

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

lv **Revelation 16:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

lvi **Romans 2:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

lvii **Mark 9:47-48 (ESV)**

⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

⁴⁸ 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

lviii **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.