

# Glory or Wrath?

## MARCHING TO ZION OR STAYING IN BABYLON

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

Revelation 14 presents a striking contrast—two ultimate outcomes set before humanity: glory with the Lamb or wrath under judgment. In this chapter, the apostle John records one of the most vivid prophetic visions he experienced while he was exiled on Patmos. Caught up in the realm of the Spirit, John is given sight beyond time, beholding both the reward of the faithful and the fate of the rebellious.

He first sees the Lamb—Messiah Yeshua—standing triumphantly on Mount Zion. This is no longer the image of a suffering servant, but of a victorious king who was once slain and now reigns. With him stand 144,000 redeemed souls, marked with his name

and belonging wholly to him. Their identity is not merely symbolic but relational—they bear his name as a bride bears the name of her husband, signifying covenant, loyalty, and a possession.

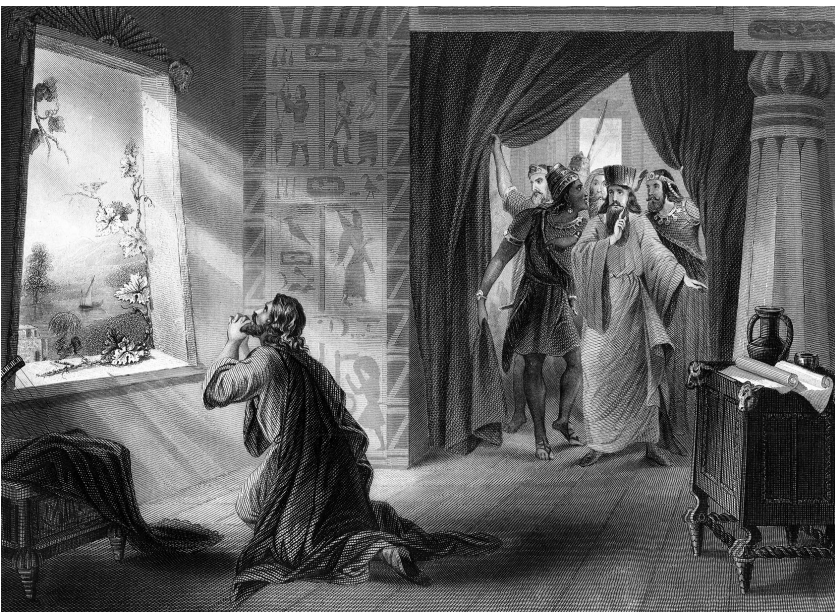
The sound surrounding this scene is overwhelming, like rushing waters and peals of thunder, yet also harmonious with resplendent music and a new song. This song is not learned casually; it is known only by those who have walked the path of unwavering faithfulness. These are those who have endured persecution and martyrdom, remaining steadfast in allegiance to their Messiah despite immense pressure from a hostile world system. Their song becomes testimony and legal witness—a declaration of their fidelity and obedience in the face of death.

### “THEY WERE VIRGINS” – A CALL TO SPIRITUAL PURITY

Revelation, as apocalyptic literature, communicates truth through rich symbolism. Just as the Lamb represents the Messiah and the sword from his mouth represents the authority of his Word, so too must we carefully discern the meaning behind the description of the 144,000.

The passage states that these (*houtos*) were not defiled (*molunô*) with women (*gunê*), for they are virgins (*parthenos*)” (Revelation 14:4). A surface reading might suggest literal celibacy among men, but a deeper examination reveals a powerful spiritual reality.

The Greek term *houtos* (“these”) carries no gender, indicating that this group is not limited to men. The word *molunô* (“defiled”) is most frequently associated in Scripture with idolatry rather



than with physical or sexual impurity. The apostle Paul uses this same term to describe a conscience that is defiled through association with idols: “Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is **defiled** (*molunō*)” (1 Corinthians 8:7, CSB).

Throughout Scripture, idolatry is portrayed as spiritual adultery or harlotry. Thus, the defilement in view in Revelation 14 is not physical, but spiritual compromise with false systems of worship.

The word *guné*, translated “women,” is also used to describe the spiritual bride of Christ—in the case of believers, the collective people of God (not exclusively women). John says later, “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to him! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride (*guné*) has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7, TLV). So, coupled with defilement, the word *women* in this case means “a relationship outside of a sacred covenant.”

The term *parthenos* (“virgins”) can also mean “chaste” or “pure.” It is used in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25), referring to those prepared for the bridegroom. The 144,000, therefore, represent those (both men and women) who have stayed the course under trial, remaining spiritual virgins, pure in Messiah, untainted by idolatry, and wholly devoted to God.

They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They are called “firstfruits,” echoing Messiah himself as the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20–23). These individuals represent a consecrated offering: their lives are fully surrendered, even unto death. Their martyrdom becomes an act of worship, and their resurrection a testimony of divine vindication—a final vindication promised to be initiated when the full number of martyrs is finally accomplished in the earth.

These “firstfruits” cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?” So, they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their *brothers and sisters* who were going to be killed just as they had been (Revelation 6:10–11, CSB).

### THE OTHER CHOICE: ALIGNMENT WITH THE BEAST


While the first part of the chapter reveals glory, the latter half unveils the sobering alternative—wrath. An angel proclaims the eternal gospel to every nation, tribe, and people, calling all to fear God and give him glory, for the hour of judgment has come. This announcement marks the final moment of separation. A second angel declares the falling of Babylon to the earth. This

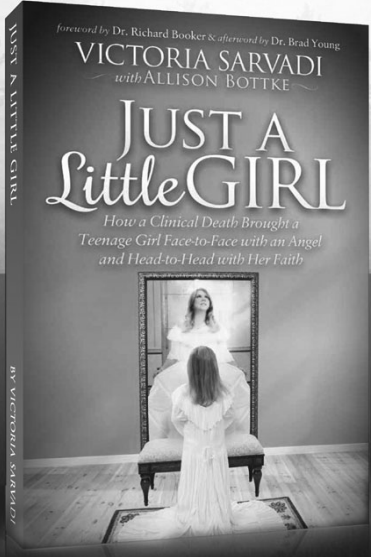
# GOD OPENS DOORS

PRAYER IS THE KEY

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global governmental and vile religious system comes down from the spiritual plane to interact with the inhabitants of this world.

“She has fallen! She has fallen! Babel the Great! She made all the nations drink the wine of God’s fury caused by her whoring!” (Revelation 14:8). This despicable religious order introduces signs and wonders enticing all nations to worship the beast, infuriating the God of Creation. As a result of their choice, the one true God pours out his terrifying wrath that has been stored up for this moment in time.

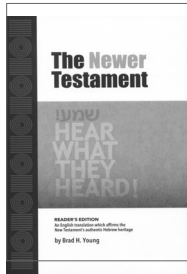
The description of “the fall” in chapter 14 is not the conquering or destruction of Babylon as some have taught but rather, it’s the opposite. It is the arrival upon the earth of a malevolent spiritual force. Revelation 12 explains that this event is the manifestation of fallen angelic powers, energized and led by Satan himself, who has been cast down to the earth.

Then comes the most severe warning: Those

***Babel the Great is the religious system that entices all the nations to worship the beast, infuriating God and bringing his wrath upon them.***

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of the Gentile believers is finally determined, the blindness of the Jewish people is lifted. God unites all of his family. God will do this—and isn't it marvelous in our eyes!

“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until** the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (Romans 11:25, NKJV).

### THE FINAL REAPING: GLORY OR WRATH

The closing imagery of Revelation 14 presents a harvest that is actually two harvests. One is gathered unto life, the other unto judgment. This echoes the consistent message throughout Scripture: there are only two paths—blessing or cursing, life or death, glory or wrath.

Those who belong to Messiah are rescued from the coming wrath, justified by his blood and welcomed into the heavenly Mount Zion—the city of the living God. There, they join a joyful assembly, their names written in heaven, and made perfect in his presence.


But those who reject God face his fury alongside the system they trusted. Babylon is destroyed, and all aligned with it are judged for destruction.

### THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Revelation 14 is not merely a prophetic vision—it is a call to a decision. The 144,000 faithful ones stand as witnesses to what it means to remain pure in a corrupt world, to resist compromise, and to follow the Lamb of God at all costs. Their reward is glory—an eternal union with their king.

The intense message of this powerful and graphic chapter is comprehensive and garishly warns of the cost of choosing otherwise. In the end, every person must choose: Will it be glory with the Lamb, or wrath with the beast?

“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from **the wrath of God**” (Romans 5.8–9, NIV).

May we be found faithful—pure in heart, steadfast in faith, and ready to stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion. 

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who worship the beast and receive its mark will drink the undiluted wrath of God. The imagery is horrifying and absolute—an agonizing unending torment. This is not a symbolic exaggeration but a solemn declaration of irreversible consequence. To align with the beast system is to reject God fully and knowingly.

### A CALL TO ENDURANCE

In the midst of these angelic declarations, the saints must remember; “This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God’s people.”

Faithfulness in this context is not a passive belief but active endurance. It is obedience under pressure, trust in suffering, and loyalty even unto death. Those who die in the Lord are called blessed—not because of the suffering itself, but because of the rest and reward that follows. Their benefits are eternal.

This period reflects a prophetic fullness—not only the completion of the number of martyrs spoken of earlier but the final number of repentant ones who have chosen God. After the sixth trumpet sounds unleashing many plagues, no one else on the earth will repent (Revelation 9:13–21). The fullness of the Gentiles (*melo hagoyim*) is now realized, and a final separation unfolds. It is at this time that a miraculous event occurs. According to Romans 11:25, as the full number

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