

ENCOURAGING THE TROOPS

Revelation 14:1-12

Introduction:

- A. At the close of chapter 13, the devil and his leaders seemed to have been in control.
- B. The false prophet has entered the conflict and by his power has caused the earth's people to worship the antichrist beast.
- C. By his miracles he has deceived them that dwell on the earth and caused them to worship the antichrist and make an image of the antichrist beast.
- D. The false prophet had given life to the image and commanded all earth dwellers to worship the image.
- E. The false prophet had commanded all earth dwellers to receive the devil's seal – 666.
- F. All who refused to be sealed could not buy and sell.
- G. Thus the saints of God were in a dangerous troubled condition. They were confronted with soul-trying conditions and needed encouragement.

I. GOD GIVES ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS TROUBLER EARTH

BOUND SAINTS. Verses 1-5

- A. V. 1 God's Little Lamb – heavens General in charge of the war to end all wars appears to His troubled troops.
- B. V. 2 General Jesus Christ speaks to His troops. (General Eisenhower went among his troops on the eve of the invasion of France on D-Day.)
- C. V. 1 God gives His earth bound saints a view of 144,000 saints who have been redeemed from the earth from among men standing with the little Lamb on the mount Zion. These have His Father's Name written in their foreheads.
- D. Who are these 144,000? No one knows for sure. Many are the ideas put forth; but most commentators confess this is a difficult call.
- E. Could these be saints who have been killed for not taking the mark of the beast? Martyred saints taken immediately into God's presence?
- F. Whoever they are, they sang a new song, a song of redemption that only they knew and only they could sing.
- G. There could be no greater encouragement to stand firm and fight hard than to see those who had been killed by the antichrist standing with the Lamb of God with the Father's Name branded in their foreheads and singing in concert with the harps of heaven.

II. THE ENCOURAGED TROOPS ADVANCE ON ALL FRONTS.

VS. 6, 7

- A. Identifying the troops -- "I saw another angel."
- B. What does the term "angel" mean? Basically, it means "messenger" One sent to deliver a message.
- C. Each of the seven letters sent the churches of Asia is addressed to the angel of the church named.
- D. Revelation 1:20 speaks of the churches as being candlesticks and the pastors as angels.
- E. Thus, it makes good sense to identify the angel of verses 6 and 7 as God's appointed messenger for this church age – His church.
- F. And since the gospel is the message Jesus commanded His church to preach, it makes good sense to identify the angel of verses 6 and 7 as the Lord's church preaching the everlasting

gospel to all them that dwell on the earth – to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

- G. Thus the saints making up the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, having been encouraged by their view of heaven’s glory, and now as they are scattered abroad, they go everywhere preaching the gospel message of salvation.**

III. NEW ENCOURAGEMENT FOR WEARY TROOPS. V. 8

- A. No doubt the saints have grown weary and maybe discouraged as they suffer hunger and see many of their company captured and killed for having refused to be branded with the devil’s number.**
- B. Now, another messenger with a loud voice informs them that the headquarters of the enemy has fallen -- Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**
- C. No greater encouragement could have come to the troops in the field of battle than to hear that the enemy’s headquarters has fallen.**

IV. ADVANCING TROOPS SOUND WARNING. Vs. 9-11

- A. They have been sounding the good news of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and how that He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**
- B. Now, they begin to sound a warning declaring what will happen to all who worship the beast and his image and receive the mark of the beast.**
- C. Vs. 10 and 11 declare that these will suffer the torments of the wrath of God in the fires of hell forever.**

V. LEARN THAT THE TROOPS NEED TO EXERCISE PATIENCE.

UNTO DEATH. vs. 12, 13

- A. Patience means to “abide under.” It means passive endurance in trials connected with service.**
- B. These earth bound church saints are under extreme pressure physically, emotionally and spiritually.**
- C. Patience is necessary in fulfilling the commands of God and in standing for the faith once delivered to the saints.**
- D. Some saints will yet die, but they should know that God counts them blessed and their works will not be forgotten.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Let us all know that there is yet much work to do for the One who gave His all for us.**
- B. Let us be encouraged to do more for our Lord while we wait the coming of “the day of the Lord.”**
- C. Most importantly, let us make sure we are ready for that day.**