

THE TROOPS ARE CALLED HOME

Scripture: Revelation 14:13-20

Introduction:

- A. Chapter 12 revealed the great dragon, that old serpent, the devil, Satan, being cast out of heaven. Here, Satan is referred to as a serpent as he was in Genesis 3.
- B. In verse 12 of chapter 12 we are told that he had but a short time and verse 14 identified the time as three and one half years—evidently the last half of the tribulation period.
- C. Chapter 13 revealed the antichrist beast rising up out of the sea of humanity. Verse 2 revealed the dragon, Satan, giving power to the antichrist. Verse 4 revealed the world worshipping the antichrist.
- D. Verse 7 of 13 revealed the antichrist making war against the saints of God. Verse 8 revealed all the world worshipping the antichrist EXCEPT those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- E. Chapter 13, verse 11 revealed another beast rising up out of the earth who is the false prophet. Verses 13 and 14 revealed the false prophet working many miracles even to calling down fire from heaven. By these he deceived the people. Verses 14, 15 revealed the false prophet making an image of the antichrist, then giving the image life and commanding all people to worship the image. Those who refused should be killed.
- F. Verse 16 revealed that the false prophet caused all people to be branded with the devil's number – 666.
- G. Verse 17 revealed that those who refused to be branded could not buy and sell.
- H. Chapter 14, verses 1-5, revealed the Lamb of God showing Himself to the earth-bound saints together with 144,000 saints who had been redeemed from the earth. Verses 6, 7 revealed the church saints scattering abroad because of the persecution and preaching the everlasting gospel to people in every nation and kindred and tongue.
- I. Chapter 14:8 revealed the fall of the great city Babylon which is identified as Jerusalem in 11:8. Verses 9-11 revealed the end of those who took the mark of the beast -- 666.
- J. Now let us take note of what is revealed about those who refused to take the mark of the beast -- the saints of God.

I. LEARN OF THE SINGLE-MINDNESS OF GOD'S END-TIME

SAINTS. V. 12

- A. They are busy keeping the commandments of God. They are going into all the world preaching the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. They are keeping the faith of Jesus – The system of doctrines and practices the Lord delivered to the saints. Many are dying because they refuse to compromise the faith of Jesus.

II. LEARN THAT MANY SAINTS SHALL PAY THE SUPREME PRICE FOR THEIR STAND FOR TRUTH. V. 13

- A. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth.
- B. Multitudes of saints have died in the Lord since the Lord went back to glory; but these seem to have a special calling and recognition.
- C. The Greek word translated “blessed” in this place is sometimes used to speak of God. It speaks of that which is the highest good.
- D. This speaks of the sacrificial death of end-time saints as being God-like.

- E. And their works do follow them certainly speaks of rewards for this God-like service; but it can also mean that those who have been saved by their efforts shall follow them into the presence of God.

III. LEARN THAT THE LAMB OF GOD STANDS READY TO DELIVER HIS SAINTS FROM THEIR DEADLY STRUGGLE WITH SATAN.

- A. V. 14 The Son of Man – the Lord Jesus – sits with sickle in hand waiting the call of the Father.
- B. Matthew 24:30 Then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. Sitting at the Father right hand – waiting for the call of the Father.

IV. LEARN THAT AT THE FATHER'S CALL THE SAINTS ARE RAPTURED FROM THE EARTH.

- A. V. 15 Another angel messenger came out of the temple of God and cried with a loud voice, “thrust in thy sickle and reap – the harvest of the earth is ripe.”
- B. Jesus spoke of this in His parable of the wheat and the tares. These grow together until the time of the harvest when He will send forth His angels to reap the harvest.
- C. Matthew 24:31 prophesied of this – His angels shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- D. Thus, we are shown the calling home of the troops who have fought the good fight of faith for about 2,000 years.
- E. These will next be seen in heaven.

V. LEARN THAT WE ARE GIVEN A VIEW OF THE SOON COMING DEFEAT OF THE FORCES OF EVIL.

- A, Verses 17-20 gives us a view of the soon to come defeat of the devil and his evil forces.
- B. This is more of a preview of what shall take place on the earth following the rapture of the saints when the wrath of God is turned loose on the God hating, God rejecting people of the earth. until the time is ripe for the

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. The end is fast approaching; the time when God will deal with people according to their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- B. Let each of us make sure that we know the Lord Jesus Christ in the free pardon for sin.
- C. Let us do what we can to help the lost come to accept Jesus as Savior.