

Chapter 14

The Third Interlude

cf. chapters 7, 10-11

- **The Lamb and the 144,000** (The Messianic Army/countercultural people)
- **The messages of the three angels**
 - The eternal Gospel
 - Babylon's fall announced (*cf.* Isaiah 2.19)
= World system not under God: social/religious/ cultural/economic;
e.g. Babylon, Rome—pagan power of the day whose fall awaits the
end of history (Rev 15.1; 16.17-19)
 - A call to perseverance & pronouncement of blessing

The Seven Benedictions

1.3	Blessed is the one who reads aloud, hears And keeps the words of this prophecy
14.13	Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
16.15	Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on
19.9	Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb
20.6	Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection
22.7	Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book
22.14	Blessed are those who wash their robes

Source: ESV Study Bible

- **Appearance of the Son of Man and the harvest of the Earth**
 - Grain harvest – gathering of believers (*cf.* Matt 13.30)
 - Grape harvest – destruction of the wicked (*cf.* Joel 3.12-13; Isaiah 63.3-4)

Chapter 15

The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

- **The seven plagues/bowls**
- **The song of the Lamb** (*cf.* songs of Moses: Exod 15.1-18; Deut 32.1-43)
- **The tent of witness**
 - The “glory of the Lord” (*cf.* 1 Kings 8.10-11; Exod 40.34-35)

We have two possible futures:

“To be God - to be like God and to share His goodness in creaturely response - to be miserable - these are the only three alternatives. If we will not learn to eat the only food that the universe grows...then we must starve eternally.” ~ C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*