

## REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

### Sermon no. 17

## THREE THINGS GOD CANNOT DO

Revelation 14:1-20

Seven key figures of the Tribulation were introduced in chapters 12 and 13, and the situation of an earth dominated by evil was clearly seen. Revelation 13 revealed the son of Satan in seeming control of all humanity. It ended with the declaration of man's number, 666. How will God's people survive this? Can they remain faithful to the Lord with such overwhelming odds against them? The answer is found here. We see their ultimate triumph through the triumph of the Lamb of God.

Remember that this material is not chronological. God gives us a summary in this chapter, a "panoramic view" of the events that lie ahead in Revelation. John answers two vital questions: What will become of those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast and are killed (Rev. 14:1-5)? And what will happen to the beast and his servants (Rev. 14:6-20)? Therefore, chapter 14 prepares the way for the climatic events which will follow from Revelation 15 onward.

What we learn from Chapter 14 is about three things that God cannot do. He cannot, because He won't. And that is good news for all who belong to Him:

### 1. **GOD WILL NEVER ABANDON HIS OWN: God preserves His people in the midst of evil, just as He promised (14:1-5).**

- The Shepherd who began with 144,000 sheep doesn't end up here with 143,999. He has 144,000 sheep—He did not lose a single one! He redeemed them, He sealed them, and He preserved them. The Good Shepherd brought them through the Great Tribulation.
- God goes beyond preserving: He honors his own. The 144,000 are believing Jews who endured persecutions on earth and now are ready to enjoy the eternal benefits and blessings of life with God forever. They are a picture of every Christian's final outcome, even today.

### 2. **GOD WILL NEVER GO BACK ON HIS PROMISES: God will judge mankind righteously, just as He promised (14:6-13).**

#### a) **The Proclamation of the Gospel to All (Rev. 14:6-7)**

- God graciously calls all to salvation. Even in judgment there is mercy. However, this also serves to make sure that no one can ever give God the excuse of ignorance, "I didn't know."

### **b) The Pronouncement of Judgment for the ungodly (Rev. 14:8-11)**

- Babylon will fall—the great political and religious capital of the world during the Great Tribulation.
- The followers of the antichrist will be judged with eternal consequences.

### **c) The Promise of Blessing for Believers (Rev. 14:12-13)**

- Judgment also means giving justice for the oppressed. While this promise applies specifically to those who become Christians during the Tribulation, yet the general principle holds true for every believer: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Death is never an unwelcome event for the Christian, or for those they loved who are saved. Let us draw comfort from that truth.

## **3. GOD WILL NOT LET EVIL GO ON FOREVER: God will harvest the earth, just as He promised (14:14-20).**

- The imagery of the Lord Jesus Christ on a cloud (Daniel 7:13-14) emphasizes magnificent majesty (Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:9–11).
- A Preview of Armageddon: At the end of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 19) huge armies of the world rebel against the Antichrist and move toward Israel to fight his army. Instead of one battle, “the battle of Armageddon” could be a series of battles that climaxes with the two sides facing each other at Megiddo. When Christ appears, they unite to fight against Christ instead of each other.
- Every eye on earth will see the Lamb returning (Rev. 1:7). The morning is coming. The darkness will fade away, and the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings.

### **Final Thoughts:**

It is encouraging to know that the Lamb—not the two Beasts—is going to have the last word. And since He is going to have the final word, Babylon will fall—and the followers of the Beast will be judged.

Although many of Christ’s own become martyrs in the Tribulation, they will not lose; they will win. I would rather be on the side that seems to be losing today but will finally win, than to be on the side that seems to be winning today but is going to lose eternally.