

# The Revelation

by Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish



Revelation 14:1-13

Vss. 1-3

- A triumphant Christ stands on Mt. Zion with 144,000, and they have the name of the Father on their foreheads. Such a name in John's time could mean ownership, loyalty, dependence, or safety.
- When you hear the voice of God you know it, but to what can you compare it?
- ...a new song that no one could learn: there are experiences and knowledge you have as a Christian that people without Christ will never know.

Vss. 4-5

- Most probably the "chaste" condition refers to spiritual chastity, in keeping with the book's theme. Still, Paul did say in 1 Cor. 7:8 that it was good for the widowed and unmarried to remain single and chaste as he was. Bear in mind, that both Paul and John believed that the Lord's return could be at any minute, maybe before supper, so why worry with things like marriage. Almost certainly this verse contributed to the explosion of monasteries for priests and convents for nuns that occurred in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries. But again, Peter was married, almost certainly Paul was widowed, so to suggested that sexual purity is somehow spiritually superior is inconsistent at best and contradictory at worst given all John and Paul said about circumcision.
- The 144,000 are those who responded to the call "Follow Me" and were sacrificed as the first fruits and were found to be spotless/blameless. Worthy sacrifices to God and the Lamb.

## Vss. 6-12

- Jesus said in Matthew 24:14 that the gospel must be preached throughout the earth before the end would come. Here now is an angel who comes with an eternal gospel for all mankind. Paul says the gospel is a mystery that “has been kept secret for long ages past” (Romans 16:25).
- In vs. 8 a second angel comes declaring the fall of Babylon/Rome (see Isaiah 21:9).
- Just as the original Babylon made the nations drink (Jer. 51:7) so too has Rome. So Rome is like a prostitute who gets her lovers intoxicated before defiling them. “Yes, join the Pax Romana. You will be wealthy, enjoy peace and security, and if you must worship the emperor as a god, well what of it?”
- The third angel comes with a warning: “death at the hands of the beast (Rome) may be terrible, but eternal damnation is far worse! Stay faithful to the end!” The message is like the message given in Isaiah 34:8-10.

## Vs. 13

- Paul speaks of the dead in Christ (1 Thess. 4:16).
- How we live out our faith is our testimony, the evidence of our salvation. For no one would have faith unto death for a lie. You freely lay down your life for what you truly believe.