

The Revelation

by Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish



Revelation 14:14-15:8

Vss. 14-20

- The cloud was always associated with the presence of God in the Old Testament (Ex. 13:1 "...a pillar of cloud"; Ex. 19:9 "The Lord said to Moses, 'I will come to you in a thick cloud...'").
- The victorious Christ as represented by "one like a son of man" is seen in Daniel 7:13-14.
- Next we see two common images of the judgement: reaping and a winepress. We see both in Joel 3:12-14. Christ Himself used the image of the sickle in Mark 4:26-29 and of the judgement as a gathering of the harvest in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.
- Likewise, the winepress is an Old Testament metaphor for judgement (Isaiah 63:1-4).
- So here in vs. 20 the winepress is outside "the city", that is Jerusalem. The idea here is that all the world at judgement will be gathered at Jerusalem, the city of God. As to the amount of blood, it is hard to say except that 200 miles is roughly the length of Israel. The judgement then is understood to be all encompassing.
- One curious thing is the angel who is also reaping. We may understand that to show that the victorious Christ, the son of man, is reaping His own people, while the angel is reaping those bound for judgement.

15:1-8

- Vss. 1-2: But this is not yet the end of the story, for there are "great and marvelous" things still for John to see.
- We first saw the "sea of glass" in 4:6, except this time it is on fire. Fire is often seen in scripture as a tool of judgement (Ex. 9:24; Matt. 3:12).

- Standing ON the sea of glass are those who emerged victorious from battle with the beast. But do not miss that they are martyrs. They died in the battle with the beast. They are victorious BECAUSE they died faithful to Christ. Had they sought instead to live, to preserve their lives, they would have been defeated. It is as Christ said in Matt. 16:25. As Unamuno, the Spanish monk, has said: “May God deny you peace, and give you glory.
- The song is composed almost entirely of quotes from scripture.
 - Great and wonderful are your works.
 - O Lord, how great are Thy works! (Psalm 92:5); The
 - Works of the Lord are great (Palm III.2); He hath done
 - marvelous (wonderful) things (Psalm 98:1); Marvelous
 - are Thy works (Psalm 139:14).
 - Just and true are your ways.
 - The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all His
 - works (Psalm 145:17).
 - Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?
 - All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship
 - before Thee, O Lord; and shall glorify Thy name (Psalm
 - 86:9).
 - You alone are holy.
 - There is none holy as the Lord (I Samuel 2:2); Let them
 - praise Thy great and terrible name, for it is holy (Psalm
 - 99:3); Holy and reverend is His name (Psalm III:9).
 - All the nations will come and worship before you.
 - All nations whom Thou hast made will come and worship
 - before Thee, O Lord. (Psalm 86:9).
 - Your righteous judgements are made manifest.
 - The Lord hath made known His salvation; His righteous-
 - ness hath He openly showed in the sight of the heathen
 - (Psalm 98:2).

- But note that there is nothing about *THEIR* victory. It is all about what God has done.
- The “tabernacle of testimony/witness” is a common Old Testament for the tabernacle in the wilderness (Numbers 9:15; 17:7; 18:2).
- The robes of the angels are priestly, but the high girdles/belts are royal. The gleaming white, the color of heaven (Matt. 28:3; Mark 16:5).
- Here again is smoke and cloud. None may enter the Temple until the plagues have worked their judgement. Nothing, no prayer or petition may stop it.