

“Locked and Loaded”

(Rev. 14:14-15:8)

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I. Introduction

A. Getting reading for deer hunting

1. Getting all of the equipment ready
2. The guns!!!
3. The “camp”
 - *waiting for dawn
3. Locked and loaded
 - *Stalking a dreaded enemy
 - *One of natures most feared creatures
 - *Bambi

B. The gathering of seven angels

1. God’s elite special forces
 - *Assigned to a special mission
 - *given a “bowl”
2. Each is given a special “weapon of mass destruction”
3. They are locked and loaded
 - a. Await the command to launch

II. Text

A. Preparing for Judgment (v.14)

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a son of man” with a crown of gold on his head and sharp sickle in his hand....v.14

1. The appearance of “One like a son of Man”v.14

a. This is clearly Jesus

1. His favorite name for himself while on earth

b. Similar to how Jesus left the earth

1. His appearance after the resurrection (Acts 1:9)

⁹ *Now when he had spoken these things while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

2. Will return in a similar manner (Acts 1:10-11)

¹⁰ *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,*
¹¹ *who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

2. This is His Glorious Appearing...The 2nd Coming...Not the Rapture

a. Wearing the golden crown

b. Leading armies of Heaven (Rev. 19:11-21)

c. “Seated on a cloud”

d. A sickle in His hand

B. Questions regarding the harvests in v. 15-19

1. Appear to be two different events in verses 15 - 19

a. What are they?

b. When do they happen?

2. Different theories

a. Both are times of judgment

1. The first refers to the 7 bowls of wrath

2. The second refers to Armageddon

b. The first is of the righteous and the second the unrighteous

1. Jesus does the first & angels the second

2. The rapture of the church or the taking of the tribulation saints

3. Lots of theories regarding the timing of the Rapture of the church

a. Before the tribulation

*my favorite

b. In the middle of the tribulation

c. Just before the bowls of wrath

d. At the end of the tribulation

e. Between the tribulation and the millennium

f. Right here in Chapter 14

4. It may be describing the Rapture...but not setting the time

5. I guess we'll find out who was right when it happens

C. The first harvest....v.15-16

1. An angel says "It's time".....v.15

Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.".....v.15

2. Only the Father knows the exact time of Christ's return

- a. Angel comes from the Temple
 - a. God's throne in Heaven
- b. Shares the news with Jesus
- c. Two possible harvests:
 - a. Of believers to rewards
 - b. Of unbelievers to judgment
 - 1. A prelude to the next harvest
- d. The harvest.....v.16

“So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested”....v.16

D. The Second Harvest.....v.17-20

- 1. Another angel is waiting....v.17-18

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. (18) Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”....v.17-18

- a. From the Altar of Incense
- b. With the prayers of the saints
 - * “Thy Kingdom come...”

- 2. Gets the message from a 3rd angel
 - a. All of the saints are in!
 - b. It's “Go time!”
- 3. The horrible harvest.....v.19-20

The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. (20) They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and

blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia (180 miles).

- a. Like a winepress
 - b. Walk on grapes
 - Lucy and Ethel
 - Juices ooze out
 - The more ripe the more juice
 - These are fully ripe
 - c. Appears to be describing the battle of Armageddon
4. The magnitude.....v.20
- a. Blood as deep as horse's bridle (5 feet)
 - b. 1,600 furlongs
 - 1. 180 miles
 - 2. Discuss later
 - c. The holy land awash in blood
 - d. Details in Chapters 16-19

E. Why God's vengeance?

- 1. Mankind failed to heed repeated warnings—
 - a. The Bible
 - b. The two Witnesses
 - c. The 144,000
 - d. The Angels
 - e. The earlier plagues

f. The saints

1. They killed them
2. God's righteousness demands a payment
 - a. He paid for their sins
 - b. They scorned His gift
 - c. They killed His Son
 - d. Communion helps us remember
3. The Tribulation martyrs under the altar

Rev. 6:9-11)—“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

F. The Preparation for Judgment (15:1)

1. “Another sign”.....v.1

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed.....v.1

2. Each of the 7 angels has a plague
 - a. “plague” = “judgment”
 - b. What a gathering
4. The 7 angels stand poised to judge (next chapter)

G. The Song of Celebration (v. 2-4)

1. The Tribulation martyrs.....v.2

And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.....v.2

- a. No longer under the altar
 - b. No longer weeping for vengeance
 - c. No longer pleading – “How long, O Lord?”
2. Standing on a “Sea of Glass”.....v.2
- a. Before God’s throne
 - b. Saw it in (Rev. 4:6)—“Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.”
 - c. The tribulation martyrs are massed there
3. They will be filled with joy and anticipation.....v.2-3

They held harps given them by God (3) and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

- a. Now playing harps
 - 1. Only played at times of joy
 - b. They have won the race (Rev. 14:12 & 13)
 - 1. Patience—endured
 - 2. Kept the faith
 - 3. Dead in the Lord
4. The Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb.....v.3
- a. The Song of Moses
 - 1. From Ex. 15:1-21 (crossing the Red Sea)
 - 2. God delivered His children
 - 3. God punished their enemies
 - b. The Song of the Lamb.....v.2-3

a. The Lamb is Jesus....the Deliverer

5. The Song.....v.3-4

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. (4) Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

H. Locked and Loaded (v. 5-8)

After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. (6) Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. (7) Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. (8) And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed