

# ACCEPTED OR ABANDONED

Part 6 of Understanding the Times. Revelation 14:1-20.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 25, 2023.

## TODAY

**Today, I want to help you know for certain that God accepts you and has not abandoned you.**

- This is the most serious issue we will ever face.
- There are only two possible outcomes of our lives.
  - Accepted by God.
  - Abandoned by God.

## REVELATION 14

**The Redeemed - verses 1-5.**

**The Angels - verses 6-13.**

**Salvation and Wrath - verses 14-20**

## WHAT IS GOD'S WRATH

**Defining wrath.**

- Wrath means intense or passionate anger.
- God is slow to get angry, but he does get angry.

**Explaining wrath.**

- We need to make a distinction between our anger and God's.

- We sometimes get angry for the wrong reasons and express it in inappropriate ways.
- God's never loses his temper. He's never cruel or capricious.
- God's anger is always justified - there's always a good & right reason for it.
  - "We create communities and institutions that neglect, marginalize, and even destroy other people made in God's image. And all this fallout and pain caused by human idolatry makes God angry, and rightfully so. There are some things that are worth getting angry about."

<https://bibleproject.com/articles/is-the-god-of-the-bible-an-angry-god/>

## **Describing wrath.**

- The Bible tells us that God's anger is expressed by 1) turning his face away (e.g. Deuteronomy 31:16-18), and 2) handing us over to the consequences of our actions (e.g. Romans 1:24-28).
  - "The biblical authors want us to see that God's anger is always a response to human betrayal and evil, and it's expressed through handing humans over to the logical consequences of their decisions. In other words, God's anger is expressed by giving humans what they want, or at least, what they've chosen. And if what we've chosen is ruin and death, then that's what we will get."

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- Since humans are created for a relationship with God, there is nothing worse than being abandoned by God.
- The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis describes the Grey City where people are ghost like, less than fully alive. It's great, monotonous, restless, joyless, and it rains all the time, outside and indoors.

# **GOD'S WRATH IN REVELATION 14**

## **Is God's wrath justified? Verse 9.**

- God is intensely angry with people who reject him, and worship, follow, and align themselves with the Beast, Satan's mouthpiece in the world.

## **How is God's wrath manifested?**

- Verse 10 tells us: The people who reject God "will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger."
- This signifies total rejection. See Psalm 75:8 - down to the last drop.
- Verse 11 describes the results of God turning his face away: Emotional torment, spiritual restlessness, the strong presence of satanic evil, and spiritual death and destruction.

## **HOW TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD**

### **Step One: Get out of Babylon - verses 8-9.**

- Babylon was the ancient empire that destroyed Jerusalem. Hence, early Christians called Rome, Babylon. Rome fit the description of the Beast.
- So ... Don't reject God. Don't worship idols. Don't follow false religions and deceptive teachers. Don't live a godless, self-centered, sinful lifestyle.

### **Step Two: Get into Zion - verses 1-5.**

- 144,000 is symbolic of all God's people. They are redeemed (rescued) by Jesus Christ. See Romans 5:8-9.
- They receive the eternal Gospel, their faith in Christ endures, they give their allegiance to God and Christ. As a result, they are redeemed, they follow the Lamb, worship the Lord, fear God and give him glory, leave the ways of the world, pursue holiness, and keep the commandments of God.

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 14.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.**

- According to Peter, in what ways does God manifest his wrath. Read Deuteronomy 31:16-18 and Romans 1:18-25 for insights.
- Read Romans 1:26-32, and describe the awful consequences of being abandoned by God. Does this description ring true?
- Discuss your questions and insights related to the idea of God's wrath as abandonment. For example, what are some common, but faulty, ideas people may have about God's wrath?
- Discuss the results of being redeemed by Christ - see the study guide.

## **Pray together. Be bold.**

*Pray for a great awakening in the world. Ask the Lord to open hearts to the eternal Gospel. Ask him to give people the will to leave Babylon behind in order to enter Zion. Ask him to give us opportunities to share Jesus.*

## **Preparation for Next Sunday**

- Watch this video about getting out of Babylon:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7J\\_NGncv5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7J_NGncv5s)
- Read a helpful commentary on Revelation 15-16:  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-27>