

“Tertullian urges Christians, who live by Jesus’s precepts, to wear their oppressors out with patience: ‘Let wrong-doing grow weary from your patience.’... According to Tertullian, the key to the believers’ patient lifestyle is their confession that in the resurrection of Jesus, God has vindicated *his teachings and way*, and as a result they expect that they too will be resurrected. Tertullian asserts, ‘If we believe in the resurrection of Christ, we believe in our own, also, since it was for us that he died and rose again.’... The Christians’ *lifestyle* is rooted in hope. In contrast, impatience is hopeless.... ‘Now, nothing undertaken through impatience can be transacted without violence, and everything done with violence has either met with no success or has collapsed or has plunged to its own destruction.’” (Patient Ferment, 22-23)



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What are the completing claims for authority in *Revelation*? How does this relate to an already/not yet understanding of Christ’s reign?
- From whom does the Beast receive its authority? And Christ?
- The reaping of the harvest produces a vast flow of blood. What are some of the possible sources of that blood? Support your answers.
- What do we learn about how the Lamb’s army is going to wage war in *Revelation*?
- What tells us that the work of the 144,000 produces more fruit?
- When is the work of the harvesting of the earth to take place? Who is the one “like a son of man”? Where and when is he in the clouds?
- What might the repetition of the same words in 13:9-10 and 14:12-13 tell us about what is in between?
- How can a church which is not experiencing persecution best prepare for a day when it will come? What can we learn from the early church on this matter?

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – 16: The Call for Patient Endurance

Jerry Cisar — November 26, 2023

Text: Revelation 13:9-10; 14:1-20

Introduction

“If they kill me... I’ll reach my arms out through my tomb and I’ll be even stronger.” Minerva Mirabal, *The Legacy of The Butterflies*

I. Whose Claim is Valid?

- A. The Beast and the Lamb both claim of authority over the earth!
 - i. The Lamb
 - a) Rev. 11:15
 - b) Rev. 12:5, 10
 - c) Rev. 14:6
 - ii. The Beast
 - a) Rev. 12:4, 7-8
 - b) Rev. 13:14-17
- B. The book of Revelation is about a war... a war over who has the rightful claim over the world, and about whose methods will win.

II. Whose Blood is It? (13:9-10; 14:12-13, 19-20)

- A. Bookends: “This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people (the holy ones)”
 - i. “Whoever has ears, let them hear” (13:9)
 - ii. Between These Two Almost Identical Verses

B. Whose blood is this?

- i. The 144,000 were introduced in chapter 7.
- ii. Rev. 13:10 “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.”
- iii. The 144,000 “offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb” (14:4)
 - a) They are offered... their lives are sacrificial.
 - Rev. 6:9-11
 - Rev. 12:11
 - Rom 12:1-2
 - b) Their work produces more fruit.
 - The fruit of their sacrifice is seen in Rev. 14:6-11.
- iv. The harvest produces a rising flow of blood (14:19-20).
 - a) That’s a lot of blood.
 - b) 1,600 is 40 x 40.
 - c) Is there any significance to the number 40 in Scripture?
 - 40 years of testing in the wilderness
 - 40 days of testing of Jesus in the wilderness
 - Ezek. 4:6
 - Gen. 7:4, 12, 17

C. The work of this 144,000 leads to the harvest of the earth.

III. Who is Lord of the Harvest? (14:6, 14-18)

A. Who is this Lord of the Harvest?

B. When are the harvest fields ripe?

- i. Matt. 10:36-38
- ii. Luke 10:2-3

C. Where is this cloud? (Acts 1:9-11)

D. How Does He Lord the Harvest?

E. The Call for Patient Endurance

Alan Kreider: “Christians did not worry that absence of the pagans from their services constituted a lost opportunity. Their worship was not evangelistic; it was not ‘seeker sensitive.’ Their intent in worshiping was to glorify God rather than to attract outsiders. And since they believed that authentic worship formed the worshipers [Gospel formation], they believed that in the course of time the behavior of those so formed would attract outsiders.” (The Patient Ferment of the Early Church, 189)