

Revelation 31

Notes on imagery, speech figures, symbols, etc. Rev. 14-16

- 14:2...the voice, as many waters...the symbol indicates a great swelling sound.
- 14:4...not defiled with women is a speech figure to indicate the spiritual purity of the group...they have not been part of the worship of the beast or of the false worship orders common under the Jezebel image of the earlier churches.
- 14:8...Babylon is fallen finds the term Babylon used as a figure of speech to describe the worldly religious systems as later shown in Revelation 17-18.
- 14:8...made the nations to drink shows the way in which the false system has involved the people of earth in its sin.
- 14:9...the mark as noted earlier is the way in which the beast identifies his followers in imitation of the way in which the Lord marks His. It is suggested that the beast's mark cannot be given until the Lord has first marked out His own. The Lord's mark is something other than the Gospel, it seems to me.
- 14:10...shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...depicts the judgment that will come to those who deny the truth.
- 14:14...the white cloud symbolizes the heavenly placement of the Lamb, the golden crown His Divine being, the sharp sickle His power to judge the parties of the earth. The thrusting of the sickle (v. 16) will remind one of the judgments to be seen from the text of Joel 2. The sickles that appear with others (v. 18) continue this picture.
- 14:18...her grapes are fully ripe indicates the completion of time and that the necessary events to initiate the judgment of God from the earth view point are complete.
- 14:20...the winepress is figurative of the way in which God brings His wrath in strong oppression on those who would not hear Him...the blood measurement of v. 20 is figurative to indicate the great loss of life and the strife the divine economies bring.
- 15:1...the seven last plagues symbolize the final acts of judgment so far as the world is concerned...thus the accompanying scene (v.2) is a sea of glass mingled with fire, a calculated judgment.
- 15:3...the song of Moses and the Lamb is a song of redemption by blood and power as in Exodus 15.
- 15:5...the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony symbolically shows us that the judgments come from the holiest of all.
- 15:6...the angels or messengers are clothed with white linene indicating the holiness of the acts while the golden girdles suggest the majesty of their service and this is finalized in the picture of the temple filled with the majesty and glory of God in v. 8.
- 16:1...pour out your vials: the judgment is about to begin.