

The worship war

The Lamb strikes back: an introduction

What is now for?

Introduction: the other half of the story

Time in the text:

For the next 20 minutes, it would be brilliant if you could do some hard thinking about Revelation 14. Here is a process that might help you to read thoughtfully. Don't worry if you don't finish all of it—just reading the chapter will do you good, and I've intentionally given enough material that I expect everyone will run out of time before you've got to the end. But if you do get further, that's all to the good. It might help you to read all 7 steps before you start reading!

1. Read through Revelation 14:1–15:4. As you read, make a note of things that seem especially surprising/striking/you don't understand.
2. Go back through and have a go at dividing it into 3–4 chunks. Try to give each a title, to summarise what happens.
3. Try to think about the basic story. Don't worry too much about mapping the scenes on to the real world just yet. In the world of John's vision, what happens in what order?
4. Revisit your list of the main characters from 12–13. What happens to them here?
5. Compare 14:1–15:4 more generally. How is this chapter similar to what comes before? In what ways is it different?
6. I'm going to suggest that the first half of chapter 14 is still mostly about **now**. How might 14:1–13 help us to understand what now is for?
7. Do you get any hints on how John wants us to respond?