

## Revelation 14:1-5 The 144,000 and The Lamb

As we look at the 144,000 in the Book of Revelation, we see a group of redeemed and sealed men whom God uses for a special purpose. While we might not be the 144,000, we too have been called, redeemed, and sealed by God. How can we look at them for inspiration about who God has called us to be?

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Some estimates say that there are 50k missionaries today.

-The Tribulation will have the "144k Daniels"

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144k ≠ 144k JW's or SDA's...

144k = The Church?

Of all the symbolic options? Was there a divine Council and some angel proposed this as the mascot?

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"a voice from heaven"

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"and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand"

Learn = manthanō(μανθάνω); learning through experience, not merely exposure

Philippians 4:11 — Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Philippians 4:12 — I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:13 — I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

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Some of you have fought in war. There is a song that you can sing, that nobody else here can understand. They can try to understand it, but unless they have lived it, they will never know

what you have experienced. Those who have lost a child have a song. Those who have sat at the bedside of a loved one slowly dying to a terminal illness have a song.

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"I love You, Lord  
Oh, Your mercy never failed me  
And all my days, I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God"

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As each day passes by, I feel my love run dry  
I get so weary, worn and tossed 'round in the storm  
Well I'm blind to others needs and I'm tired of planting seeds  
I seem to have a wealth of so many thoughts about myself

I want to, I need to, be more like Jesus  
I want to, I need to, be more like Him

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The very things I hate, I end up doin'  
Things I wanna do, I just don't do  
Lord, it seems so sad  
Why am I so bad  
When in my heart I only wanna be like You?

The very ones I love, I end up hurtin'  
Ones I wanna help, I pass right by  
Now I wanna be  
Finally set free  
The grace You've shown, the love I've known  
Please let it shine through me

I wanna love them  
The way You do

I wanna serve them  
By servin' You

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“not defiled with women”

Hebrews 13:4 — Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Satan will do all that he can to promote sex outside of marriage, but also to prevent it within.

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“for they are virgins”

-Literally or figuratively?

-Yes...

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Jeremiah 16:1-4

1 Corinthians 7:27b-29a NLT — If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married. ...However, those who get married at this time will have troubles, and I am trying to spare you those problems. But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short...

1 Corinthians 7:32 NLT — I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him.

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These men recognized the signs of the times, and in response to the direness of the hour in which they lived, they forsook ordinary and acceptable pursuits to better follow God alone.

Proverbs 18:22 — He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.

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“These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.”

Matthew 4:19 — “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

-Matthew 8:22 — “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

-Matthew 19:21 — “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

-John 10:27 — “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

-John 12:26 — “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also...”

-Luke 9:23 — Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

John 21:18-19 — “Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to Peter, “Follow Me.”

John 21:20-22 — Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following... and seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”

-Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”

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“redeemed from among men”

1 Corinthians 6:20 — For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Titus 2:14 — [Jesus Christ] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Acts 20:28 — ...The Church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1 Peter 1:18-19 — knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

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“being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.”

Firstfruits were:

-1) First in time

-2) First in quality

Exodus 23:19 — “The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God...

Numbers 18:12 — “All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the LORD...

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“without fault before the throne of God.”

2 Peter 3:14 — Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Psalms 17:3 — You have tested my heart... You have tried me and have found nothing  
-I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

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144,000

-Not 143,999

Sealed

Revelation 7:3 — saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

2 Corinthians 1:22 — [God] also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13 — In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30 — And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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How could I ever be like the 144k?

Romans 8:28-29 — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The 144,000 missed the rapture!

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“Called, according to His purpose... Predestined...”

Ephesians 1:11 — “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”

Job 42:2 — “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

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While they are sealed, there is no saying what became of friends or family...

2 Timothy 4:9-10 — Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...

2 Timothy 4:7-8 — I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Psalm 91

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Jude 1:24-25 — Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.