



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

14:1-5

OUTLINE

- 📍 Main Point
- 📍 The Vision
- 📍 The Lamb and the 144,000 (v. 1)
- 📍 Voices and Sounds (v. 2)
- 📍 A New Song (v. 3)
- 📍 Character of the 144,000 (v. 4)
- 📍 Holiness of the 144,000 (v. 5)
- 📍 Lessons for Us

MAIN POINT

- 👤 Here we see the ultimate fate and character of the 144,000
 - 👤 What happens to them
 - 👤 Their rewards for faithfulness
 - 👤 How they were able to remain faithful in the worst circumstances
- 👤 Learn what it takes to get be faithful in the bad times
 - 👤 Follow the commands of God (big and small)
 - 👤 Develop character (virtue) by and through suffering
 - 👤 Do not become distracted by what is going on around you
 - 👤 Know what is going on, but do not let it change your path or impact your attitude toward what God calls you to
- 👤 Need to figure out what God has called us to and faithfully continue in it
 - 👤 Are we suffering for the right reasons?
 - 👤 What is God teaching us and what are we learning in those times?
 - 👤 Be sure to pass those lessons on to others
 - 👤 Not just what happened, but how and why it happened
 - 👤 Help others go through their own suffering (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**)

THE VISION



THE LAMB AND THE 144,000 (V. 1)

👤 We left **Chapter 13** with a temporary triumph of the Beast and that System

- 👤 Here we see the triumph of the Lamb and the 144,000

- 👤 This is a “proleptic” portion of the prophecy which jumps forward to the Millennium and shows the final victory (Thomas v2, p. 189)

- 👤 It is meant as encouragement for those going through the Tribulation

- 👤 Contrasts with the judgments and apparent victory on the Earth

👤 Standing

- 👤 This is in contrast to the “standing” of the Beat/Beast System in Chapter 13

- 👤 We are getting a glimpse of the final victory

- 👤 What Satan and the Beast are attempting to do is thwart the ultimate plan of God

- 👤 This once again demonstrates that God’s designs will not be defeated

👤 Mount Zion

- 👤 Last referenced in **Revelation 11:1**

- 👤 Calls attention to **Psalm 2**, which is of special relevance in the Tribulation period

- 👤 This is most likely literal Mount Zion and not a symbolic or allegorical representation

- 👤 Mount Zion is not used that way in Scripture







- 👤 Nothing indicates that this is a “heavenly” Mount Zion

- 👤 Showing the Millennial victory and reign in contrast with the earthly and doomed reign of the Beast on earth would make thematic sense





- 👤 Also aligns with the 144,000 as being a specific subset of Jews (**Revelation 7:1-8**)

VOICES AND SOUNDS (V. 2)




Who is this group?

-  Not the 144,000 as they have a different song and are introduced later
-  Similar to other groups of voices and sounds such as **Revelation 10:4, 8; 14:13; 18:4**
-  Inclusion of harps is new
 -  Say what you will about Renaissance depictions of angels and Heaven, but in this instance, the harps do seem correct
-  Description of the chorus seems similar to that of Jesus in **Revelation 1:10; 5:11**
-  Likely a group of angels singing

Many waters

-  We see “many waters” in **Revelation 1:15** and **19:6**
-  Voice of God spoken of in **Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2**
-  Used of angels in **Daniel 10:6**
-  One of the Four Living Creatures in **Revelation 6:1**

The overall idea is of strength, power, and unity

-  Imagine the power of a great waterfall
-  Everyone is doing the same thing and on the “same sheet of music”
-  Power ultimately comes from God

A NEW SONG (V. 3)

👤 A new song

- 👤 More literal, “something like a new song” (Thomas V2, p. 193)
- 👤 New set of singers and a new subject
- 👤 In the Old Testament, a “new song” was one of praise for the new mercies of God (Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 91:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1) (Thomas V1, p. 399)

👤 The subject







- 👤 Redemption
- 👤 Would have great meaning to anyone in this company and not in the company of the Earth Dwellers

👤 Who are the singers?




- 👤 **The Redeemed (broadly speaking):** But no one else can learn the song, and later we see the Overcomers in Heaven with harps, which are not present here
 - 👤 Could be debate on the exact identity of Overcomers, but the lack of harps in the description is significant
- 👤 **The 144,000:** The issue is the 144,000 are on the Earth and not in Heaven. While the 144,000 understand the song, they do not sing it
 - 👤 Further, the subject of the song seems to be the 144,000, but they are not the singers
 - 👤 Note that the “they” appears before the 144,000 which means it must point back to the previous group of people, that being the singers in Heaven
- 👤 **A Company of Angels:** Likely angels similar to Revelation 5:11; 7:11, and the lack of a specific identity is similar to Revelation 11:15; 12:10; and 19:16
 - 👤 Angles are not redeemed, but they are interested in it (Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12)

CHARACTER OF THE 144,000 (V. 4)




Virgins

-  An example of their actions while on the earth under the corrupt Beast System
-  Actively chose to have no part in the life/sin around them
-  Makes them easier and more free to conduct their business (c.f. **1 Corinthians 7:7; 26**)
-  The additional explanation of “with women” indicates that this is meant to be literal and is not figurative of “spiritual purity” especially when considering the Greek *parthenoi*
-  This phrase also implies that all the 144,000 are men
-  Also implies that the strength, will, determination, power, etc. needed to confront the Beast System is a uniquely masculine trait (Thomas v2, p. 195-6)

Follow the Lamb

-  The Greek implies that when on Earth they followed Jesus in all He commanded them to do (Thomas v2, p. 197)
-  They were obedient even to the point of death
-  This is true faith (c.f. **Hebrews 11:1-2**)

Firstfruits

-  Firstfruits was the first portion of a harvest given to God within the Levitical system
-  However, the word, *aparche* used here is most commonly used to denote a specific, special thing set aside with nothing following (Thomas v2, pl. 198)
-  These are a unique group of men who did the right thing under the worst circumstances and are rewarded for their faithfulness

HOLINESS OF THE 144,000 (V. 5)

👤 While following Christ during the Tribulation they lived their lives with exceptional moral virtue

👤 They would not tell an easy or comfortable lie

👤 Would not try to comfort those that are separated from God with some pithy nothingness

👤 They did the right thing, alone, and when there was every reason to do something else

👤 The process of obtaining virtue/maturity (**2 Peter 1:5-7**)

👤 Faith -> Virtue -> Knowledge -> Self-Control -> Perseverance -> Godliness -> Brotherly Kindness -> Love

👤 Virtue (*arete*) is best described as moral character or excellence

👤 Not a term we usually use, but occurs in **Philippians 4:8** and **2 Peter 1:3, 5**

👤 Doing the right thing in the right way for the right reasons with the right heart

👤 We do not know our own heart, only God does, so we need to be careful and ask Him to show us our own motivations (c.f. **Psalm 139:23; Hebrews 4:12**)

👤 They demonstrated their faith by their actions (e.g. **James 2:18**)



👤 Knowledge is important, but unless it is based on virtue it is meaningless at best and degenerate at worst

👤 Everyone, even the World, wants *agape* love, but no one (even most Christians) do not want to do it God's way or to go through the process of refinement




👤 The process of refinement is often a Dark Night of the Soul

LESSONS FOR US



How faithfully are we following after God

-  What does that faithfulness look like?
-  Can people tell we are following God, even without us saying anything?

Suffering should be considered the norm, not the exception

-  Seem to have forgotten this in the modern U.S. church
-  We have become so used to wealth, success, and freedom that many of us have never had to develop character which comes through suffering
-  When suffering does come, we find ways to avoid it and shun those that do suffer because we find the idea uncomfortable

Obedience and endurance

-  We are not promised an easy time, and most people who serve God do not get that (**Hebrews 11:35b-40**)
-  Make sure our suffering is for the right reasons (**1 Peter 2:18-20**)
-  May not see the results here, but will have a reward in Heaven