Then I looked and Behold

Rev 14: 1-5

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- The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is a fascinating book for two reasons
  - First, it is a book of prophecy…….
    - In it we see many descriptions of future events……
  - Secondly, it is a book of contrasts
    - It shows us in detail the greater power of God……..
    - The fearsome power of Satan (Rev 13)
      - Satan gives his authority to the beast (Rev 13: 4)
      - Satan speaks through the false prophet (Vs 11)

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- But Revelation is also a fulfillment of O.T. verses
  - Psalm 37: 35-40…”I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was* not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that* man *is* peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the LORD: *he is* their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.” (KJV)

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- A study through Revelation requires of us a type of (toggling)…going back and forth
  - Note Rev 14: 1 the mention of the 144,000….
  - We first saw them in Rev 7: 4-8; 9: 4….(sealed)
    - Compared to Rev 13: 16….(mark of the beast)
- Now John states…."then I looked and behold"
  - It is almost like he is saying…."if I hadn't seem this with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe it."
  - What John is beholding is the sight of a glorious assembly of the 144,00 at the end of the Tribulation…
    - Gathered at Mount Zion ending the reign of the Gentile nations (Rev 11: 2…….(42months)……

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- All throughout the reign of the beast, they (144,000) are kept safe.
  - Some try to say these (144,000) have returned with Christ at His second coming…..(Rev 19)
    - Note Rev 19: 14…”armies of heaven were following Him…..these cannot be those returning with Christ
    - Rev 14: 1…..these appear with the Lamb on Mt Zion.
- Then I saw and behold……..”The Lamb”……
  - The last time John saw “the Lamb” was Rev 7: 14-17
    - Now (Vs 3) those with Him are *<u>singing a new song</u>*

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- This is a song never before sung on earth or in heaven
  - Which no one could “learn” (Vs 3)
    - “Learn” in the Greek…..means to “experimentally understand”
  - Singing a “new song” is a biblical feature….
  - 9 times in Scripture we are told of a “new song
    - Psa 33: 3; 40: 3; 96: 1; 98: 1; 144: 9; 149: 1; Isa 42: 10 and Rev 5: 9…..
    - Now a “new song” is mentioned again

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- What's in the content of this song is not revealed..
  - Vs 3 may give some us insight???
    - Redeemed (purchased) from the earth…..
    - Perhaps more than any other group, these know the protection of the Lamb……
- We must note these 144,000 are not married..
  - I Cor 7: 32.. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:
  - These "follow" the Lamb wherever He goes
  - Heb 13: 4…."marriage is to be honored by all"

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- They are also called, “the first fruits of God and the Lamb”
  - Remember these 144,000 are Jewish evangelists
  - They are specially chosen to bring forth the gospel of Jesus Christ to their Jewish brethren during a time of great tribulation…
  - They then can be called the first of the harvest of Israel
  - These men fulfill the cause of Christ in their time….
  - Esther 4: 14….. and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

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- Vs 5…. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. (KJV)
  - First, what does it mean there was no “guile” in their mouths???
  - James 3: 2….
  - “And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”
  - Here are people who have been specially called by God for a specific time just like others in the Bible

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- Note these individuals called for a specific time
  - Noah…. These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. (Gen 6: 9)
  - How could he be called “righteous and blameless?”
    - Gen 6: 8…But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
    - I Cor 15: 10…. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. (Paul)

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- John the Baptist…“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother’s womb. (Luke 1: 15)
  - Paul…But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, (Gal 1: 15)
- What are we to learn from our study today?
  - “who knows if we have been born for such a time as this?” (Esther 4: 14)

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- We are facing unprecedented times in America
  - We have candidates running for Senate…..
    - Whose families have been part of a terrorist organization…..(Muslim Brotherhood)
    - We have others running for political office speaking to crowds in the Somali language with American flags turned upside down
    - Gov Walz in Minn. just signed an abortion bill lifting the requirement to save the life of a child born through an abortion
- Our message today……Let Your Light Shine