

Revelation #36**April 23, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: The Lamb, Standing on Mount Zion! Revelation 14:1-5**

Revelation 13 was a great chapter in our study. Trevor Farnsley did a wonderful job in bringing it to you last week. He was humble in his assessment of his presentation; but I think his coverage of the contents was more than sufficient. I will say no more except to close it out with the following review:

Revelation 13 gave us a glimpse of Satan's unholy trinity consisting of Satan, who is the dragon, The Beast, who is Antichrist, and the second beast, who is the false prophet. It is a trinity of deceit, a counterfeit offering of power and authority. The Dragon is a counterfeit figure of our Father God who rules over all in perfect holy Sovereignty. The Beast is Antichrist, a counterfeit figure of our Precious, sinless redeemer Jesus Christ. And the False Prophet is a counterfeit figure of the Holy Spirit. We see the master imposter once again usurping the authority of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The Dragon, the beast and false prophet can only steal, kill and destroy. Nothing they do is holy.. No pursuit is motivated by love. Not one word, not one act is spoken or worked for redemption, but only for destruction! Yet, the inhabitants of the earth are sucked into his vortex of doom leading to their final judgment. Chapter 13 serves as a warning to all people living now. The time to repent is now.

On the other hand, the chapter serves to challenge believers to live purposeful lives of faithfulness and godliness before the Lord. As the end of all things fast approaches we are to live more carefully than ever before. 1 Peter 4:7 exhorts us to consider, "The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray." Peter goes on to write in 2 Peter 3:11, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives."

In Revelation 14 there is a dramatic shift! Whereas Revelation 12-13 gave us a view of the career of Satan during the tribulation, Revelation 14:1-5 surprises us, because in an instant we are viewing Christ, the Lamb of God standing on Mt. Zion, here on earth! We catch a glimpse of the moment He sets His feet down on earth to begin His 1,000 year reign sitting on David's throne on earth! That startling shift should cause us to see the speed of imminency; meaning that when we speak of the imminent return of Christ we have to see that when it happens it happens in an instant! 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 describes the instantaneous instant we are changed from perishable to imperishable! Likewise, Satan's doom is imminent, as seen in the dramatic shift of events between Revelation 13 and 14.

Revelation 14 stands in bright contrast to Revelation 13. This chapter describes the Lamb, angels, the redeemed of the Lord, true genuine worship, and all those sealed by God, for God to be with God forever!

So let's get to it. Let's look at the Lamb and the triumphant saints in this scene in 14:1-5, **which arguably spans both heaven and earth!**

I. (14:1) The Lamb and the 144,000 sealed saints of God

A. "Then I looked..." (to a scene on earth!)

1. All along in chapter 12 and 13 John has been relating what he "saw".
2. Now, *all of a sudden*, John "looked" and a completely different scene appears.
 - a) Not only did John "look", but his observation is so vivid, he calls for you and me, the readers of the Revelation to "behold" the very scene, too!

B. The Lamb standing on Mt. Zion...

1. The Lamb triumphant!

a) In Revelation His works have been depicted as redemptive: (MacArthur)

- (1) The Lamb "slain" (Rev. 5:6; 13:8)
- (2) The Lamb glorified (Rev. 5:8, 12,13)
- (3) The Lamb exalted (Rev. 7:9-10)
- (4) The Lamb, the Redeemer (Rev. 7:14)
- (5) The Lamb as Shepherd (Rev. 7:17)
- (6) The Lamb as "Lord of lords, and King of kings (Rev. 17:14)

b) Here is 14:1, the Lamb is witnessed as the Triumphant King, fulfilling the promise of God to "install [His] King upon Zion" (Ps. 2:6-9)

- (1) The Lamb, Christ our Lord, standing on Mt. Zion is very important.

(a) Psalm 2 is descriptive of God's King taking the throne and ruling over the nations. From **Mt. Zion**

(b) Mt. Zion stands for Jerusalem, which will be the seat of rule for Christ, who sits of David's throne during the Millennial Kingdom.

(i) Mt. Zion is *the Millennial City* on earth!

(a) It is significant that in our lifetime we have witnessed Jerusalem becoming the capital city of Israel.

(c) Other important prophecies concerning Mt. Zion

(i) Ps. 48:2: "...the joy of the whole earth."

(ii) Is. 24:23: "The Lord Almighty will reign on Mt.Zion and in Jerusalem...gloriously."

(a) As the Millennial City it will become the Capital City of the World!

C. "...and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads."

1. That the 144,000 are alive, standing with Jesus on Mt. Zion (The Millennial City)
 - a) These were sealed (Rev. 7:3-4) for protection during the 7th Seal
 - (1) The 7 Trumpet judgments, which include the 7 bowl judgments.
 - (a) The wrath of God upon the earth
 - (b) But it also includes the "fury and the wrath" of Satan during the same period of judgments. (see 12:12)
 - (2) The 144,000 Jewish believers, chosen to be God's ministers to evangelize the world!
 - b) These 144,000 are unique in that they survived the Tribulation and entered into the Millennial Reign of Christ alive, and in the same earthly bodies.

D. Not one will be lost

1. Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being preserved through the fiery furnace, so these 144,000 were preserved through the fires of tribulation and of Satan!
 - a) **Christ is triumphant in preserving His own!**
2. God has placed the seal of the Holy Spirit on every believer signifying our being possessed by Him!
 - a) We praise the God of our Salvation through Jesus our Savior who keeps us by the power of the Holy Spirit who seals us as a guarantee of our salvation!
 - (1) See John 6:37; 10:28-29; Phil. 1:6; Jude 24; 1 Pet. 1:5; Eph. 1:13-14

II. (14:2-3) The Lamb and the Song of the Triumphant Saints

A. John heard a sound/ **voice** from heaven (**heaven to earth**).

1. Ezekiel 43:2 compares this sound of many waters to that of the voice of God in heaven! (MacArthur)
2. Revelation 1:15 likens the same sounds to the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Revelation 19:6 uses both phrases to describe the voice of a heavenly multitude (MacArthur)
4. John says, "The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.
 - a) And "they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders."
 - (1) **(This song reverberated in Heaven**

(a) In the Throne room of God

- (i) See Revelation 4 and 5 where you can see the throne, the 24 elders, and the four living creatures surrounding the throne.**

B. That very song goes unpublished in Revelation 14

1. But the 144,000 are the only ones who could learn the song.
 - a) Remember these have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
 - b) And, these are— as we will see— first fruits to God and the Lamb.
 - (1) They were given the privilege of singing first because of their faithfulness and purity— as we will see!

C. Harmony between Heaven and earth!

1. Now that Christ stands on Mt. Zion there is harmony between Heaven and earth during the Millennium.
 - a) Since the Garden of Eden there has not been harmony between Heaven and Earth.
 - (1) “The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” (Romans 8:19-22)
2. Because Christ Jesus reigns over the earth, sitting on the throne of David ruling in righteousness, there is peace and harmony between heaven and earth!
3. But now that the 144,000 on earth, the first fruits of the sons of God, join in with the singing of the heavenly chorus, heaven and earth reverberate in harmony at the praise of our glorious God!

D. Application

1. The Revelation was written for the Church! For our encouragement. That the suffering saints down through history (including our day—including you and me) would believe **that because God is able to bring His 144,000 safely through the Tribulation, and that not one of them is lost, that He can bring us safely through our trials and tribulations!**
 - a) Romans 8:31-39: NOTHING will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus!
 - (1) Neither troubles, trials, temptations; or hardship, persecutions or sword; neither death nor life.... NOTHING can separate us!
 - (2) Regardless of your difficulty, Revelation 14 and other Scripture support the doctrine of the security of the believer!

(a) God will see us through to the end!

III. (14:4-5) The Lamb and the Quality of His Triumphant Saints

- A. These saints were marked by an exemplary obedience to Christ!
 - 1. Remember, these are Jewish believers.
 - a) Jeremiah 31: 6-13 describes their redemption and the joy that accompanies the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem Jacob!
 - (1) Try to catch the joy in Jer. 31:11-12: "For the Lord will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord— the grain, the new wine and the oil, the you of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more."
 - 2. These are Jewish believers that were committed to obedience to the will of the Lamb! This commitment to obedience was revealed in the purity of their lives!
 - a) They kept their ways pure
 - b) They followed the Lamb wherever He goes!
- B. "They did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure."
 - 1. Considering that the last days would be characterized in Luke 17:26, and 2 Peter 2:5, as "like in the days of Noah, and considering the people in the last days to be likened to those in Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:6-10), it is not hard to imagine that the 144,000 redeemed Jewish evangelists kept themselves pure sexually.
 - a) We have to think that these faithful Jewish men honored the marriage bed and the command for marriage to be between a woman and a man. What are we to think?
 - (1) Revelation 9:20-21 informs us that among other pagan practices supported by Antichrist, that sexual immorality was common.
 - (a) With that being the case, the 144,000 were swimming against the strong current of immorality and choosing to obey the commands of God.
 - (2) During the rule of Antichrist marriage will be perverted. We see that happening in our time. But if this trend toward the perversion of marriage, then these 144,000 Jewish men are glorifying God by their obedience to God's design of marriage.
 - 2. We can safely conclude then, that just as it was in Noah's day, where "every inclination of the thoughts of [man's] heart was only evil all the time (Gen. 6:5b)," so will it be in the days of these 144,000 redeemed of the Lord, whose purity is recognized, to the praise of God's glory!
- C. They were offered as "first fruits" to God!
 - 1. Representative of the redeemed! This caused great joy in Heaven and on earth!
- D. No lie was found in their mouths and they are blameless.

1. Not sinless. But in obedience to Christ, and out of a spirit of gratitude they were pure.
 - a) It is only through the cross of Christ, having been washed in the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5) that they stand righteous before God the Father!
 - (1) Through Christ: Sins are cast away (Is. 38:17) and faultless before the presence of God (Jude :24)