

The Book Of Revelation Study 71

Revelation 14:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ *Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.*

² *And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.*

³ *They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.*

⁴ *These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.*

⁵ *And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

Last study we said that *Chapter 14* is a bright contrast to the previous verses, because it describes the Lamb, the angels, the redeemed Saints, genuine worship, and those sealed by God

Chapter 14 also speaks of truth, righteousness, purity, and praise.

We said that this passage yields important practical principles for triumphant Christian living. Seven such features will characterize the 144,000

**They are Power,
Praise,
Purity,
Partisanship
Purpose,
Precision,
Perfection.**

We already spoke of the power given to these evangelists and the freedom that they possessed as they were sealed of God. Untouchable until the Millennium.

They had the mark of the Father on their foreheads and were given a solemn task of preaching the Kingdom of God among the peoples of the world in spite of the threats, and the perils set before them by the Antichrist.

We want to now look at the second of the seven features which is;

PRAISE

Revelation 14:2-3 (NKJV)

² *And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.*

³ *They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.*

Standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, the 144,000 will join in the heavenly song of redemption.

With all the devastation they have seen, with all the trouble they have faced, with all the rejection, hostility, hatred, and persecution they have endured, one might expect them to be too sorrowful to sing.

It reminds us of the words of the Psalmist;

Psalm 137:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ *By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion.*

² *We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.*

³ *For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

⁴ *How shall we sing the LORD'S song In a foreign land?*

But instead they will joyously praise the Lord for their protections and triumph.

This is not the first time John heard a voice from heaven. (4:1; 10:4, 8; 11:12; 12:10) nor will it be the last (14:13; 18:4; 9:1)

The voice was loud and continuous, **like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder.**

Ezekiel 43:2 likens the voice of God to **the sound of many waters**, while *Revelation 1:15* describes the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ in the same way.

But since *Revelation 19:6* uses both of those phrases to describe the voice of a heavenly multitude, it is best to understand them in that sense here.

The song began in *Chpt 5:9-10*, when the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders;

Revelation 5:9-12 (NKJV)

⁹ *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,*

¹⁰ *And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

¹¹ *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,*

¹² *saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

And finally; the martyrs for the Lord join in;

Revelation 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

In *Chapter 7:9-10*;

Revelation 7:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

¹⁰ *and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

This mighty voice was not mere noise; it had a musical quality,
Like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.

The reference to **harpists and harps** suggests that the voice expressed not thunderous judgment but joy.

The new song sung in heaven before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders is the song of redemption.

Here the angels will join the Old Testament saints, the raptured church, and the redeemed Tribulation martyrs in praising God for salvation.

While angels do not experience redemption, they do rejoice because of it.

Luke 15:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

All heaven will overflow with praise because God's redemptive work culminating in the return of Christ is accomplished.

Heaven's praise over flows to earth, where the **new song** is taken up.

John notes that **no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.**

The unregenerate cannot, of course, sing the song of redemption. It is only for the redeemed, those **purchased** by Christ's blood.

The 144,000 will join with the heavenly chorus in praising God for His marvelous work of redemption.

Some of the lyrics of their song may be found in *15:3-4*

Revelation 15:3-4 (NKJV)

³ *They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!*

⁴ *Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."*

A mark of triumphant Christian living in any era is constant praise to God.

The 144,000 no doubt praised God throughout their time of trial and persecution.

Because their ordeal is over and they are victorious, they will burst forth in praise to God for their deliverance. Joy is the proper outflow of a heart that trusts in God's sovereign power.

Philippians 3:1 (NKJV)

¹ *Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.*

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ *Rejoice always,*

James 1:2 (NKJV)

² *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,*

1 Peter 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

So their hearts are singing before the Lord.

Now the next feature is;

PURITY

Revelation 14:4 (NKJV)

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste..

The worship of Antichrist during the Tribulation will be unspeakably vile and perverse.

As it did in the fertility cults of ancient times, sexual sin will apparently run rampant. Even in the current grossly immoral day, we can hardly imagine what the deviant sexual perversion of the Tribulation will be like.

With all divine restraint removed and the unbelieving world judgmentally abandoned by God, sin will be released like a flood, inundating the world.

And fanning the hellish flames of wickedness will be Satan and his demon hosts, both those cast from heaven with him and those vile demon newly released from imprisonment.

In the midst of the darkness of the Tribulation period, the 144,000 will shine forth like beacons of purity. Despite the rampant sexual sin that surrounds them, they will **not** be **defiled with women**, but will keep **themselves chaste**.

That the specific sin that they will avoid involves **women** indicates that sexual purity is in view here, not detachment from the corrupt world system.

That the 144,000 will be separate from Antichrist's empire has already been made clear; they bear God's mark, not the beast's.

Nor does this passage teach that they will all be unmarried, since sex within marriage does not defile anyone.

What it means is that they will stand apart from the sin of their culture; 144,000 morally pure preachers amid the defilement that surrounds them.

Sexual purity is essential to triumphant Christian living.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV)

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 6:13b (NKJV)

¹³ Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

This same feature is needed today among God's people.
It is the key to powerful ministry.

PARTISANSHIP

Revelation 14:4b (NKJV)

⁴ These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

The 144,000 are further characterized as **the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes**.
They will be partisans to the party of the Lamb

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines a partisan as "one who takes part or sides with another, an adherent or supporter, one who supports his party through thick and thin; a blind, prejudiced, unreasoning, or fanatical adherent."

The 144,000 will be completely loyal to the Lamb, no matter what the cost.

It is such loyal devoted followers that Jesus seeks.

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Matthew 19:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Jesus said to him, "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 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

These were sold out to Christ for whatever may come and at any cost.

PURPOSE

Revelation 14:4C (NKJV)

⁴ These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

In redemptive language reminiscent of **5:9**, John explains that the 144,000 have been **purchased from among men**.

Now listen, all believers have been purchased by God, the 144,000 were purchased for a special purpose;

They will be redeemed as **first fruits to God and to the Lamb**.

In the Old Testament the first fruits, the first part of a crop to be harvested, were offered to God to be used in His service.

The 144,000, like the first fruits offering, will be set apart for divine service.

As previously noted, the number 144,000 does not symbolize all the Tribulation saints, but rather designates a group of Jewish Evangelists.

The purpose of their lives will be to serve the Lord by proclaiming the gospel to the lost, perishing, Christ-rejecting world.

The 144,000 will exemplify the purpose, decisiveness, dedication, and clarity of life goal that marks triumphant Christians

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

PRECISION

Revelation 14:5 (NKJV)

⁵ *And in their mouth was found no deceit,*

The 144,000 will not propagate Satan's lies, but will speak God's truth. They will be like those of whom Zephaniah wrote;

Zephaniah 3:13a (NKJV)

¹³ *The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; "*

While the unbelieving world will be consumed with "false wonders,' all deception of wickedness" and "a deluding influence" judgmentally decreed by God so that those who reject the gospel "will believe what is false" (2 Thess 2:9-11)

The 144,000 will accurately proclaim the Word of God without wavering, equivocating, or altering it.

They will be like the Lord;

1 Peter 2:22 (NKJV)

²² *"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";*

In all generations, triumphant Christians are characterized by:

Ephesians 4:15a (NKJV)

¹⁵ *but, speaking the truth in love,*

Ephesians 4:25a (NKJV)

²⁵ *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"*

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

PERFECTION

Revelation 14:5b (NKJV)

⁵ *they are without fault.*

Because they will trust in God's power and lead lives characterized by praise, purity, devoted loyalty, and singleness of purpose, the 144,000 will be blameless

That does not , of course, mean that they will be sinless, but they will be sanctified. They will be above reproach, leading Godly lives before all who see them.

Like the 144,000, all Christians are called to holiness.

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

And where is the power to do this? How does this come about?

Jude 1:24-25 (NKJV)

²⁴ 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,

²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

These 144,000 deserve a place in the "Hall of Fame" of the Christian faith (***Heb 11***).

They will lead holy lives and minister effectively for God during history's darkest hour.

Their exemplary efforts will spearhead the greatest spiritual awakening the world will ever see

The inspired account of their lives and ministry provides a pattern of triumphant Christian living for all believers to follow..

Next our study will lead us to consider the Angelic Messengers in ***Revelation 14:6-11***